

## U.S. Department of Justice



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Mr. Ernie Lazar  
P.O. Box 423434  
San Francisco, CA 94142-3434

MAY 17 2001

✓ Subject of Request: Kurt Mertig

FOIPA No. 917,472 /190- HQ-1250177

Dear Requester:

Enclosed are copies of documents from FBI records. Excisions have been made to protect information exempt from disclosure pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 (Freedom of Information Act) and/or Section 552a (Privacy Act). In addition, where excisions were made, the appropriate exempting subsections have been cited opposite the deletions. Where pages have been withheld in their entirety, a deleted page information sheet has been substituted showing the reasons or basis for the deletion. The subsections cited for withholding information from the enclosed documents are marked below:

## Section 552

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(1) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(A)            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(2) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(B)            |
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## Section 552a

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(See Form OPCA-16a, enclosed, for an explanation of these exemptions.)

Pursuant to your request, 501 pages(s) were reviewed and 353 page(s) are being released.

During the review of material pertinent to the subject of your request, documents were located which

- ☒ originated with another Government agency(ies).

These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

- ☐ contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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Mr. Ernie Lazar  
P.O. Box 423434  
San Francisco, CA 94142-3434

✓ Subject of Request: German-American  
Republican League

FOIPA No. 917,097 /190- HQ-1250177

MAY 17 2001

Dear Requester:

Enclosed are copies of documents from FBI records. Excisions have been made to protect information exempt from disclosure pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 (Freedom of Information Act) and/or Section 552a (Privacy Act). In addition, where excisions were made, the appropriate exempting subsections have been cited opposite the deletions. Where pages have been withheld in their entirety, a deleted page information sheet has been substituted showing the reasons or basis for the deletion. The subsections cited for withholding information from the enclosed documents are marked below:

## Section 552

☐ (b)(1)

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☐ (b)(8)

☐ (b)(9)

## Section 552a

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (j)(2)

☐ (k)(1)

☐ (k)(2)

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(See Form OPCA-16a, enclosed, for an explanation of these exemptions.)

Pursuant to your request, 56 pages(s) were reviewed and 56 page(s) are being released.

During the review of material pertinent to the subject of your request, documents were located which

☐ originated with another Government agency(ies).

These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

☐ contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
(FBI)**

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS RELEASE**

**SUBJECT: GERMAN-AMERICAN REPUBLICAN LEAGUE**

**FOIPA NUMBER: 917,097**

**FILE NUMBER: 100-16314 SECTION 3 (multiple serials)**

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

**NY** FILE NO. **100-16314 DMCK/MRG**

<b>REPORT MADE AT</b> <b>NEW YORK, NEW YORK</b>	<b>DATE WHEN MADE</b> <b>7/17/45</b>	<b>PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE</b> <b>5/23, 26; 6/8-10/45</b>	<b>REPORT MADE BY</b> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> <b>b7c</b>
<b>TITLE</b> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>KURT MERTIG</b></p>			<b>CHARACTER OF CASE</b> <b>SECURITY MATTER - G; DENATURALI- ZATION PROCEEDINGS - G; REGISTRATION ACT; SEDITION</b>
<b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b> <div style="float: left; width: 20%; transform: rotate(-90deg); transform-origin: left top; white-space: nowrap;"> <b>b2 b7D</b>   <b>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 5/9/00 BY 60267 nls/ka/pe</b> </div> <div style="float: right; width: 80%;"> <p>██████████ advises ██████████ had poor opinion of subject and his affiliated organizations. ██████████ related abilities of MERTIG were commensurate with position of grocery clerk. In recent sedition trial in Washington, D. C., subject wrote numerous letters of encouragement to defendants with enclosures of clothes and money. He also alleged mistreatment of defendants by prison authorities; demanded that the quality of their food be improved, that they be allowed outdoor exercise, etc. Additional information incorporated herein reflects subject's consistent defense of German policies and consistent criticism of America's policies. At the present time he is attempting to re-vive GERMAN-AMERICAN REPUBLICAN LEAGUE with little success. He has engaged in extensive correspondence. Results of mail cover set forth. States his occupation to be "salesman" on Selective Service questionnaire and to Army Exclusion Hearing Board. Exclusion order recently revoked by U. S. Army Hearing Board. His sole occupation apparently consists of collecting subscriptions and acting as agent for NATIONAL WEEKLIES, INC., Winona, Minn. Spot surveillances reflect subject spends principal part of his time distributing newspapers, collecting subscriptions and writing letters</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- P -</p> </div> <div style="clear: both;"></div>			
<b>APPROVED AND FORWARDED:</b> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>(10)</b> </div>	<b>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</b>	<b>DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</b>  <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">100-16314-176</div>  <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">b7c</div>	
<b>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</b> 5 - Bureau 2 - St. Paul 1 - Col. ██████████ D of I, 2SC 1 - USA, SDNY 2 - New York		<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">m</div>	



NY 100-16314

REFERENCE:

Bureau file #65-9879.

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] New York,  
2/26/44. b7C

Bureau letter dated 12/1/44.

DETAILS:

The first part of this report is being devoted to a review of pertinent information acquired since the date of reference report.

b2  
b7D Confidential Informant [REDACTED] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised that an employee of [REDACTED] New York City was sent to a meeting of the "CITIZENS' PROTECTIVE LEAGUE" conducted by the subject with the apparent instructions to evaluate the subject's ability. [REDACTED] in New York City, later stated he did not have a very complimentary opinion of the subject and stated that his ability was such that he would best fit into the position of a grocery clerk in a backwoods store.

It will be recalled that the CITIZENS' PROTECTIVE LEAGUE was a group organized by subject for the purpose of furthering the interests of those Americans of German descent. To further the interests of this group, MERTIG induced different speakers to appear at meetings and when possible he exhibited films favorably portraying conditions in Germany.

b7C An examination of the records of the New York office of the HAMBURG AMERICAN LINES and the NORTH GERMAN LLOYD STEAMSHIP LINES revealed a memorandum dated September 30, 1938, by one [REDACTED] who was employed by [REDACTED] the above steamship lines in their New York Office. In this memorandum [REDACTED] states that he exhibited a film for KURT MERTIG at a meeting of the CITIZENS' PROTECTIVE LEAGUE, at which meeting [REDACTED] spoke. The memorandum states that in his speech [REDACTED] gave an eye-witness account of Germany in which he highly praised the new Germany's agricultural system, art, music and morals. [REDACTED] also praised Hitler and Germany's stand in the Czechoslovakian crisis at that time.

b2 Confidential Informant [REDACTED] advised that in April, 1939, the United States Government imposed certain additional customs duties on German imports. This made it impossible for Germany to obtain needed war supplies through the barter system. Immediately thereafter, he continued, "there sprang into existence in the United States several German-inspired organizations which

NY 100-16314

sought to use pressure to remove the countervailing duties. It was hoped to have cotton growers in the South to bring pressure on their Congressional representatives in Washington. The CITIZENS' PROTECTIVE LEAGUE, 1253 Lexington Avenue, New York City, of which KURT MERTIG was the chairman, was one of those participating pressure groups."

This informant related that MERTIG attempted to arouse sentiment against the imposition of these countervailing duties and that he also discussed topics such as "The Boycott and the New Deal" and issued various supplementary statements such as "Don't say we didn't warn you," after which was the statement "The discretion already vested in the President under the Neutrality Act is excessive and dangerous and any enlargement of same, such as is sought in some of the pending measures before Congress, is too great a trust to be reposed in any man."

Invitees were also urged to "Please come and obtain free of charge the booklet entitled 'Hitler's Reply to Roosevelt.'"

Reference letter also transmitted a memorandum from the Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, dated September 2, 1944, wherein it was advised that subject engaged in considerable correspondence with defendants in the mass sedition trial recently held in Washington, D. C. A number of the defendants in such case were confined in the District of Columbia Jail, Washington, D. C.

Records of this institution reflect that MERTIG began corresponding with members of the group early in May, 1944. He first wrote to [REDACTED] by letter dated May 12, 1944. It contained an enclosure of \$5.00 which MERTIG indicated was a gift to [REDACTED] from [REDACTED]

On May 12, 1944, there was also returned to MERTIG a miscellaneous package of food addressed to [REDACTED]. On May 13th next a letter from MERTIG outlining the contents of the rejected package was transmitted to the jail with an explanatory note from this office. Additional letters addressed to [REDACTED] were inspected on the following days:

- May 15 Advised of sending a second package; enclosed \$1.00 (Package was rejected at jail).
- May 18 Expressed regret at rejection of packages; enclosed copy of letter of protest to this office.
- June 1 Expressed encouragement. Enclosed \$10.00 money order.

NY 100-16314

- June 17 Reported items of clothing being forwarded; enclosed \$10.00 money order.
- June 28 Expressed encouragement at outcome of trial; enclosed \$1.00.
- June 29 Reported mailing of package containing 2 shirts, 1 necktie, 2 handkerchiefs and 2 pair of drawers.
- July 7 Protested refusal of Bureau of Prisons to accept clothing sent to defendants.

The Albany Field Division has advised that [REDACTED] a former employee of the German Consulate in New York City, advised that he could not seem to recall MERTIG'S appearance or any connection with the Consulate. b7C

On May 10, 1945, the United States Army Exclusion Board rescinded their order excluding subject from the Eastern Defense Command. Subject was originally ordered excluded on June 7, 1943.

A survey recently made of the premises of subject, 317 East 54th Street, reflected that a technical surveillance was not feasible in view of many adverse factors.

As will be reflected in a later stage of this report, subject at the present time is attempting to revive his former GERMAN AMERICAN REPUBLICAN LEAGUE.

On July 2, 1945, Confidential Informant [REDACTED] related that on June 30, 1945, subject dispatched the following letter to a metropolitan newspaper for the purpose of having it included in the letters to the editor section of the paper. This letter is being set out verbatim as it is indicative of subject's mental attitude and present views. b2 b7D

"During the past 12 years the Roosevelt administration has been instrumental in every conceivable way in furthering the cause of the foreign relatives and co-religionists of some four million Jewish American citizens - giving them financial, political and economic succor, and, as an end product, has expended the lives and limbs of hundreds of thousands of American soldiers besides the concomitant suffering of their American families. -

"What have we done in Europe since V E Day to restore order and 'make the world safe for the Four Freedoms'? - We act

like the little boy who broke up a watch and then had not the faintest idea how to get it running again. We have not even made an attempt to restore postal, telegraph and phone service, traffic or trade in defeated Germany - a very obvious prerequisite for reconstruction. - In short, we have so far made a terrible mess since V. E Day ! -

"And voluble arguments by such 'experts' as Henry Morgenthau and park bench philosopher Bernard M. Baruch as well as 'Foreign Economic' Administrator (whose prime achievement seems to be to have succeeded in attaching himself to a fat Government pay check), are being so persistently and so cunningly put forward over the radio - and in the editorial columns and the doctored 'news' of the large Jewish controlled majority of the American newspapers - that the control, by persons of German descent, of all German trade and industry must either be utterly destroyed, or turned over very 'patriotically' to 'American' capital.-

"This policy of senseless and revengeful destruction neither represents American traditions nor serves the best interests of this Republic. It will only drag down the white race to its final doom ! -

"The many thousands of young American soldiers of German stock who served on the Western Front were told that only the Nazi regime was to be driven out; and that nothing was held against the German people - but many of these soldiers, whose final resting place turned out to be a grave in the foreign soil of Europe, would turn in their graves, if they could see what right now is being done over there to German women and children, to the war maimed and the aged. -

"There are, however, in the United States 25 to 30 millions of American citizens of German descent, who, no less than those now dead and gone soldiers, are profoundly interested in the welfare of their relatives abroad, who, from hunger and disease are now suffering pains and anxieties utterly unknown in the country.-

"This large German ancestry contingent of our American citizenry does not yield to any other nationality or race, making up the American Amalgam, any slightest admission that its loyalty to this Republic, and to its institutions, is in any degree less than that of anyone else.-



NY 100-16314

"The American citizens of German stock do not intend to sit idly by to see millions of their kinfolk in Germany die a cruel death by starvation right now, or freeze to death during the coming winter.-

"The very least they have a right to insist right now is that immediate measures be adopted by our American Occupational Forces:

"1) to re-instate postal, telegraph and telephone service, transportation and armeting of food etc. supplies in our occupied zone of Germany;

"2) to permit American citizens to use the mail for sending food packages, clothing and money to their suffering relatives in Germany;

"3) to use our influence in the not yet operative Central Control Commission, in Berlin, to make such facilities also available for the parts of Germany occupied by the British, French and Russians.-

Yours very truly,

GERMAN-AMERICAN REPUBLICAN LEAGUE

/s/ Kurt Mertig

Kurt Mertig, acting chairman"

It was deemed advisable to make additional inquiry regarding subject's present source of income and financial status.

In registering with Local Board No. 40, 139 East 57th Street, New York City, subject stated his occupation to be "salesman." He testified before the Army Exclusion Board and related that his occupation was "merchandise broker" and vendor of "foodstuffs," and, further, that he was employed by the NATIONAL WEEKLIES, Winona, Minnesota.

On June 18, 1941. [REDACTED]

b7D [REDACTED] New York City. He alleged his salary was \$1500.00 a year. [REDACTED]

Subject at the present time

b7D maintains [REDACTED]

b2/b7D [REDACTED] whose identity is known to the Bureau, related that he was acquainted with the subject, having met him upon various occasions in the Yorkville or German section of New York City. He stated that MERTIG was constantly defending Germany's course of action in the present war and condemning American political and military policy. He stated that at the present time subject was attempting to revive the German American Republican League, which has been defunct for several years. MERTIG at one time attempted to organize this group in conjunction with his Independent Voters' League; however, this expectation did not materialize and the group was forced to disband because of lack of membership.

Informant related that MERTIG is a busybody at heart who is constantly attempting to interject himself into anything of a political nature. In his opinion MERTIG is a "big jerk" who fancies himself an intellectual. The GERMAN-AMERICAN REPUBLICAN LEAGUE, however, has met with indifferent success up to the present time, and no meetings have been held to date. It was his further opinion that the membership of this organization and of the INDEPENDENT VOTERS' LEAGUE, both sponsored by MERTIG, consisted principally of the activities of MERTIG himself.

He related that subject at the present time distributes various newspapers in the German language which are received from the Midwest. He also related that a supplementary source of MERTIG'S income consisted of collecting subscriptions and advertisements for these various German Midwestern papers. He advised that MERTIG distributed these papers to a number of newspaper stands throughout Yorkville.

b2/b7D [REDACTED] who is a competent and extremely reliable informant, reiterated that few took MERTIG seriously and that his appeal, if any, was to the lunatic fringe.

b7C [REDACTED] New York City, advised along similar lines. [REDACTED] was formerly a member [REDACTED] of the GERMAN-AMERICAN BUND. In this category he had occasion to make numerous speeches throughout the German area and knows many German individuals. He related that MERTIG never had any association or affiliation with the GERMAN-AMERICAN BUND or other German Nazi groups in this city, stating that MERTIG could not play a prominent role in these organizations and consequently declined to be a member. He advised that he had not seen MERTIG in several years and was unable to supply any information regarding his present activities.

NY 100-16314

This individual likewise had a very poor opinion of subject, in so far as intellectual attributes were concerned, and stated that he was too stupid to engage in un-American activities.

b7c [redacted] New York City, was interviewed in view of the fact that he is employed by [redacted] New York City, long a favorite rendezvous of extremists and German nationalists. [redacted] who has always been very cooperative, related that subject from time to time visits the restaurant for light refreshments such as cakes and coffee, and upon different occasions he is accompanied by men unknown to [redacted]. On other occasions, however, he has various German newspapers which he apparently is distributing, and on occasions has attempted to solicit newspaper subscriptions from the restaurant.

A spot surveillance maintained upon the residence of subject on three different days reflected that he devoted the principal part of his time to distributing newspapers, collecting subscriptions and writing letters. He remained in his apartment most of the time, receiving no visitors.

Inquiry at Special Squad No. 1, New York City Police Department, which investigates subversive activities, revealed that they have not received any information regarding the recent activities of MERTIG. They advised that so far as they were aware subject was not engaging in political or un-American activities.

b7c [redacted] proprietor of [redacted] New York City, was also interviewed. This individual is proprietor of [redacted] and owner of the [redacted] and in such capacity has business dealings with subject for several years. Subject up until 1940 held the meetings of the INDEPENDENT VOTERS' LEAGUE in the [redacted] advised that to him subject and his related organizations were business transactions and that he was not friendly with MERTIG. [redacted] emphasized, however, that subject was not a type of person who would impress anyone or be successful in organizing or conducting any reputable type of organization. He advised that subject was constantly intervening in political matters in which he had interest and stated that he considered subject to be a busybody of the first character. He related that in view of the unfavorable attention received by MERTIG and his INDEPENDENT VOTERS' LEAGUE, he in April, 1940, [redacted] MERTIG [redacted] for the INDEPENDENT VOTERS' LEAGUE.



**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice**



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO. 100-16314

HDO:PMC

New York, New York

August 31, 1945

MEMO

Re: KURT MERTIG;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

Under the caption, "German American Reawakening", the "Aufbau" of August 15, 1945, calls attention to open letters recently addressed to President Truman and to the Military Affairs Committee of the United States Senate. In his letter to President Truman, which is set forth in the above publication, KURT MERTIG states:

"Thirty million American citizens of German ancestry have been manifesting a typical German attitude of patience and silent submission toward the officials put in charge of bringing order out of European chaos, where hunger and famine, especially in Germany, is staring everybody in the face.

"This patience and endurance is all the more notable since for twelve long years past they have been injured and humiliated and conspired against by an impudent but cunningly entrenched one-fortieth minority of our population which imagines that by reason of its control over our newspapers and other information agencies it will be able to induce the Allied nations to restore to them the wealth prior to the second world war the German Government took away from their race on the ground that this race itself had originally taken that wealth from the German people by extortion and usury.

"Recognizing the main obstacle to this recovery by them of their ill-gotten plunder is to be found in the voting power which, after all, cannot be taken away from our American citizens of German ancestry, this one-fortieth minority laid its plans years ago and commenced by subjecting its fellow citizens of German ancestry to an illegal boycott, and is now carrying its campaign to the point of howling for the utter extirpation of the German race amid a chaos and confusion such as the world has never previously witnessed.

"That the government of the United States shall use its full power and influence toward the inducing of each and all of the United Nations cease and desist from an infamous program and policy embodied in the plans and proposals which at present are being put forward by international Jewry, as a preliminary to the final and culminating success of its eagerly pursued design for world domination -- the program and policy of sending demobilized German war prisoners and ex-soldiers away from Germany, where they would otherwise be unable to protect their families from the industrial and

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NY 100-15314

Memo

August 31, 1945

"sex slavery practiced against them in former years by this same international Jewry, and consigning these capable men to hopeless slavery for indefinite periods of separation from those wives, from whom, by express command of God Almighty himself, they may not rightfully 'be put asunder'."

In his letter to the United States Military Affairs Committee, the subject states:

"During the past twelve years the Roosevelt administration has been instrumental in every conceivable way in furthering the cause of the foreign relatives and co-religionists of some four million Jewish American citizens--giving them financial, political and economic succor, and, as an end product, has expended the lives and limbs of hundreds of thousands of American soldiers besides the concomitant suffering of their American families. . .

"What have we done in Europe since V-E-Day to restore order and 'make the world safe for the Four Freedoms?' . . . We have not even made an attempt to restore postal, telegraph and phone service, traffic or trade in defeated Germany--a very obvious prerequisite for reconstruction. . . This policy of senseless and revengeful destruction neither represents American tradition nor serves the best interests of this Republic. It will only drag the white race down to its final doom! . . .

"There are, however, in the United States 25 to 30 millions of American citizens of German descent, who . . . are profoundly interested in the welfare of their relatives abroad, who, from hunger and disease are now suffering pains and anxieties utterly unknown in this country. This large German ancestry contingent of our American citizenry does not yield to any other nationality or race, making up the American Amalgam, any slightest admission that its loyalty to this Republic, and to its institutions, is in any degree less than that of anyone else.

"The American citizens of German stock do not intend to sit idly by to see millions of their kinfolk in Germany die a cruel death by starvation right now, or freeze to death during the coming winter.

"The very least they have a right to insist upon right now is that immediate measures be adopted by our American occupational forces:

"1) to re-instate postal, telegraph and telephone service,

NY 100-16314

Memo

August 31, 1945

"transportation and marketing of food, etc. supplies in our occupied zone in Germany.

"2) to permit American citizens to use the mail for sending food packages, clothing and money to their suffering relatives in Germany.

"3) to use our influence in the not yet operative Central Control Commission, in Berlin, to make such facilities also available for the parts of Germany occupied by the British, French and Russians.

"All self-respecting American citizens of German descent undoubtedly wish to serve notice on our present Administration that the German-American vote is going to make itself felt, in the coming elections, for the strengthening of the basic principles which all of us are proud to call American--the very opposite of the policy now being pursued."

In discussing the above letters of MERTIG, the "Aufbau" states that MERTIG was formerly associated with crackpots and pro-Fascists, and that he was affiliated with the German American Bund and other German National Socialist groups. MERTIG at the present time is attempting to revive the "German American Republican League of New York". The paper predicts that his pro-Fascist views will succeed in convincing few American citizens. MERTIG at the present time is conducting his meetings at various small restaurants in the vicinity of 86th Street, New York City. Indications are that the membership of this group is very limited at the present time.

b7C

SA

# German-American Republican League

of Greater New York

FOUNDED IN 1936

KURT MERTIG, CHAIRMAN

NEW YORK, N. Y., September 26, 1946.  
317 EAST 54TH STREET

Hon. Harry S. Truman  
President of the United States  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

Mr. President:-

It was on your authority that Hon. Robert F. Jackson was taken off the U. S. Supreme Court bench - where he, a New York up-state country lawyer without even a formal legal degree, upon his discovery by the New Dealer Judge Samuel I. Rosenman was put by F. D. Roosevelt - to become a Nazi prosecutor under a juridical theory of collective guilt, alien to the American concept of the rights and dignity of the individual man. -

It is therefore you, Mr. President, to whom we appeal to prevent consummation of this planned lynching-bee and to condemn this totally un-American, unconstitutional mongrel "trial" at Nuremberg.

Congress has not done so much as to debate the Jackson-conducted Nuremberg "trial" and has not voted the funds for it. -

For ten long months, Hon. Robert F. Jackson has been prejudicing the cause of the twenty-two accused German businessmen and German officials at Nuremberg by referring to them constantly as "war criminals" and the kept press has been echoing all of Mr. Jackson's absurdities, -

Now the "Daily Worker" and other communist and Jewish publications burst forth in a chorus "World Wants Hanging Verdict at Nuremberg", just as about 1900 years ago the mob at Jerusalem howled "Crucify him".

Mr. Jackson pretends in his summation to "charge" the twenty-two prisoners with "conspiracy to wage aggressive war". -

We wish to remind you, Mr. President, that

- 1) Conspiracy against peace can safely be laid to Roosevelt and Churchill;
- 2) Just prior to Pearl Harbor, the Gallup polls showed 83 % of America was against active participation in this last war;
- 3) U. S. Army Air Forces went on their own account to Europe, used blockbusters, rockets and any other life-destroying device to kill wholesale German non-combatants and to wantonly destroy cities, towns and villages of a nation who had done no harm to us whatever. America transgressed devastation to a degree heretofore unknown in history and not justified by military necessity.



- 2 -
- 4) America is equally guilty - of what she accuses Germany -
- a) deportation for slave labor;
  - b) murder and ill-treatment of prisoners of war;
  - c) systematically starving to death civilians;
  - d) plunder of private and public property.

In fact, the United States and its allies are doing this still to-day, eighteen months after fighting stopped, while the record shows that the Germans have never carried on war by other means, after the fighting stopped. On the contrary, they have always helped to heal the wounds of war. They have never shown the vindictiveness of the Slavs, the Latins, the Pan-Britons or the Americans.-

Now as to the Jackson-conducted "International Military Tribunal" at Nuremberg, it cannot be denied that under the originally established rules of action among the peoples of Europe, it has neither standing in International Law nor in American Civil Law nor in American Military Court Martial Rules.

It is hokum when Mr. Jackson invents the phrase:

"Whatever the state of international law has been in the past about the crime of making war, it is a crime now. When the representatives of this country, Britain, France and Russia signed their agreement in London last August, the old order, in which war-making might be construed as legal, came to a definable end".-

What Mr. Jackson overlooks in his self-righteousness is:

"International law has never held that war is a crime and any changes in international law must be accepted by all nations".-

Mr. Jackson had as his collaborators for the preparation of this Nuremberg "trial" two Jews, Judge Samuel I. Rosenman and Dr. Sheldon Glueck. He has as associate Justices the "immortal" former U. S. Attorney General Francis Biddle and the Pearl Harbor report whitewash former U. S. Supreme Court Judge Roberts, who has evidently reached "second childhood age".- No more need be said.-

Mr. Jackson's prosecution can be readily attacked - and surely will be condemned by historians - as Lynch Law and a Jewish vindictive scheme to railroad to the gallows twenty-two accused Germans who have done nothing essentially different from actions that have been perpetrated for generations by American businessmen and American governmental officials.-

The saying proves true:

"The Angb-Saxon uses one yardstick on himself and another on others".

It pleases Mr. Jackson to exaggerate, for example, that "millions" of Jews were eliminated by the Germans, when the actual number statistically proven is in reality less than twohundred thousand.-



Now Mr. President, are you aware that your signing of Executive Order 9547 in your rank as Commander-in-Chief in authorizing the War Department to conduct this Nuremberg "trial" is entirely unconstitutional because of the restrictions which the Constitution places on the role and application as well as on the staffing of Court Martials.

No American Court-Martial can try officers of other nations, and such transgression has never before been attempted. Mr. Jackson's "court", however, pretends to "try" foreign officers and also foreign statesmen and private individuals. Furthermore the Jackson "court" is not presided over by military judges or prosecuted by military prosecutors.

After his performance at Nuremberg, Mr. Jackson's only permissible characterization is: Juridical Anarchist.

-----

If the verdicts, scheduled to be announced on Monday, Sept. 30th prescribe hanging of the twenty-two accused men, will it then not be ten times more mandatory to hang the hypocritical politicians and financiers who are plotting now against the world a tyranny far more extensive and far more disastrous than was ever said to have been contemplated by Hitler.

And this includes with double force such smooth conspirators as Henry Morgenthau, Bernard Baruch, Samuel I Rosenman, Cordell Hull, Felix Frankfurter et al who concocted and put over that infamous Morgenthau Plan and the Potsdam Agreement which caused the pillaging, murdering and raping of many millions of German civilians, the forced removal during rain and snow of the aged, women and children of entire German and Austrian provinces, the ill-treatment of German prisoners of war and the sending of millions of German soldiers and civilians in slave labor camps, and the systematical starving and freezing to death hundred times as many defenseless German civilian than Jews lived in Western and Central Europe - and this even now, eighteen months after hostilities have ceased in Europe.

It is therefore only just to ask that Morgenthau, Baruch, Rosenman et al should likewise suffer an ignominious end on the gallows for their above cited conspiracies and MOST TERRIBLE CRIMES against non-combattants.

If you do not disavow this nonsense at Nuremberg, it is still time for the American people to wake up and prevent the consummation of this plot of Jewish vindictiveness.

Very sincerely yours,

*Kurt Mertig*

Kurt Mertig  
chairman

German-American Republican League  
of Greater New York

encl.

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

65-20553

TO : SAC, New York City

DATE: October 9, 1946

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: KURT MERTIG;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G.

b7c

This is to advise you that [REDACTED] President of the United States, by memorandum of October 1, 1946, furnished the Bureau with correspondence which was addressed to the President by Kurt Mertig, Chairman of the German-American Republican League of Greater New York. A photostatic copy of this correspondence is attached hereto for the completion of your files.

Attachment

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-8-00 BY 60267/PLS/CAO/cak

105-163-9-509  
FBI  
OCT 10 1946  
NY  
[REDACTED] RAC

b7c

SAC, San Diego

January 27, 1947

Director, FBI

KURT MERTIG  
SECURITY MATTER - C

Reference is made to your letter dated December 30, 1946, which enclosed a newspaper entitled "The Broom," published in San Diego. The December 2, 1946 issue of this publication has been noted to contain an article written by Kurt Mertig.

This is to advise you that Mertig, who considers himself to be the Chairman of the German American Republican League of Greater New York, has been the subject of extensive investigation by the Bureau. He also considers himself to be Chairman of the Citizens' Protective League, 317 East 54th Street, New York City. This organization is practically non-existent and is utilized as a device for obtaining funds for Mertig. Mertig is considered a perennial critic of any policy of the United States adversely affecting Germany and he recently received a prison sentence on a disorderly conduct charge in New York City arising out of his anti-Semitic speeches. He has little influence or following. The New York Field Office has been the office of origin in the investigation with regard to him.

In accordance with your request, there is being returned to you the December 2, 1946 issue of the publication "The Broom."

Enclosure

cc New York 2-1-47  
65-20553

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-8-00 BY 60267/015/cac/cak

100-1534-214

b7c

[REDACTED] 100

# Hall Owner Bars Ex-Bund Leader

By HOWARD RUSHMORE

Kurt Mertig, ex-convict and former leader of groups associated with the Nazi Bund, today was looking for a new hall in which to hold meetings of his "German-American Republican League."

As a result of the N. Y. Journal-American's exposure of Mertig's renewed "Germany first" activities yesterday, the management of the Werdermann Hall, 160 3rd ave., last night told Mertig "this is your last meeting here—we don't want your kind in our building."

About 25 persons, most of them speaking German, had gathered in one of the meeting rooms when Joseph Essert, manager of the building, told Mertig "to finish your meeting and don't come back."

## ORDERS REPORTED OUT.

Obviously enraged, Mertig then ordered this reporter and William Finn, N. Y. Journal-American photographer, out of the hall.

"You weren't invited," Mertig said. "We don't like the kind of stories your newspaper prints about us. Get out."

Mertig refused to challenge the accuracy of the story which cited his record as former secretary of the League of German Societies—plus his six-months stay in the Workhouse where he was sentenced for publicly advocating religious bigotry at a meeting in Queens.

## DENIES BUND CONNECTION.

"We aren't Bund members,"

Mertig said. "Nobody here has anything to do with the Bund."

This reporter then cited the program of Mertig's "German-American League" and "Citizens

SAC  
ASAC1  
ASAC2  
SEC.1  
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SEC.5  
SEC.6  
SEC.7  
SEC.8  
SEC.9  
SEC.11  
OMIT  
NIGHT SUPERVISOR  
PROPERTY CLERK  
TRAINING UNIT

cc Bur.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-8-88 BY 60267/SP/CAK/CK

100-16314-225

F. B. I.
APR 23 1947
N. Y. C.

b7C

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they're co

CLIPPING FROM THE  
N. Y. Journal American  
DATED APR 23 1947  
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-8-88 BY 60267/MS/CAK/ck

100-16314-225

F. B. I.	
APR 23 1947	
N. Y. C.	
b7C	FILE

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#### DENIES BUND CONNECTION.

"We aren't Bund members," Mertig said. "Nobody here has anything to do with the Bund."

This reporter then cited the program of Mertig's "German-American League" and "Citizens Protective League" as closely resembling that of the pre-war Nazi groups which infested Yorkville.

"Why does your organization demand that Negro soldiers in United States uniform be withdrawn from Germany?" Mertig was asked.

The ex-convict—a plump, gray-haired man who talked with obvious nervousness—then outlined the usual Nazi attitude on minority groups.

#### TWISTED FACTS.

"Did you object to the conduct of Nazi soldiers in France, Poland, Italy and a dozen other countries during the war?" Mertig was asked.

"The facts were all twisted. The Nazis didn't do anything half as bad as the American troops," he spluttered.

His present organizations pose as relief groups and were repudiated last year by the American Committee for the Relief of Germany Needy.

Through its chairman, Hans A. Specht, the committee disavowed and connection with Mertig's groups and said:

"We have no dealings with un-American activities, or anyone connected with them, either past or present."

CLIPPING FROM THE

N. Y. Journal American

DATED APR 23 1947

FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIV.

# German-American Republican League

of Greater New York

FOUNDED IN 1936

KURT MERTIG, CHAIRMAN

NEW YORK, N. Y., October 6, 1947.  
317 EAST 54TH STREET

It is an undeniable historical fact that in pre-war days -- as a result of skilful research by German scientists with similarly skilful mechanical ability, coupled with patient industry manifested by German workmen -- Germany became the heart of Europe in all those activities which under modern civilization provide for the feeding and clothing and housing of Europe.-

And it is equally undeniable that if Europe is to be put on its feet again, and American taxpayers relieved of the burden of providing food and clothing for Europe, the science and industry of Germany must once more be given free opportunity to exert its full power for the benefit of other European nations, whose people never did acquire the industrial talent of the Germans -- and are much less likely to acquire that talent now.-

Hence the present concealed - but non-the-less most determined effort by selfish interests - to keep in force the Morgenthau Plan to make a goat pasture out of Germany and in that process destroy most of Germany's industry and starve to death some thirty million skilled German workers and their families, is not only infamous but also asinine.-

The American public has been kept uninformed and has been deliberately misled regarding the urgent necessity to rehabilitate Germany and we write you to help combat that deliberately intended promoting of such ignorance.-

General Lucius D. Clay, U. S. Military Governor of Germany, ventured the ugly threat that he would hold up the delivery of American Relief food shipments to Germany, if German workmen should resist the piratical program of dismantling and shipping to England additional ninehundred to eighteen hundred German factories from the British occupation zone of Germany, which is a combination of outrage and folly ! -

How would it be possible to rehabilitate Germany and deliver American taxpayers from their present burden of relieving Germany and Europe, if all modern instrumentalities for the producing of food and clothing and shelter continue to be taken away from Germany ? -

The survival of civilization is at stake in this matter. We are our brother's keeper as never before in human history ! -

Very sincerely yours,

*Kurt Mertig*  
Kurt Mertig, chairman

encl.

GERMAN-AMERICAN REPUBLICAN LEAGUE



WAR DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON D C

15 October 1947

Mr. Kurt Mertig, Chairman  
German-American Republican League  
317 East 54th Street  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr Mertig:

I regret that my present visit to the United States is limited in duration and devoted almost entirely to the discussions now under way with representatives of the British Government. Hence, it will not be possible for me to meet with you and the delegation representing the German-American Republican League on this trip as I must return to Germany immediately at the end of the present conferences.

There must be some misunderstanding of what we are trying to do in Germany if it is considered by anyone that an effort is being made to maintain what you describe as the "Morgenthau Plan." In point of fact, this plan as it is commonly understood has never been applied in Germany.

I wish to assure you that it is not our policy to make any threats to the German people. However, I did make the statement that Military Government in extending food and other assistance to the German people expected in return their co-operation and that it could not be expected to extend aid if there should develop open defiance of its orders.

Of course, you will understand that Military Government does not make the policy of our government in Germany. However, it is my duty (as Military Governor) to see that our government's policy is implemented and that I shall endeavor to accomplish at all times to the limit of my ability.

Here, I hope you will permit me to suggest that your views with respect to our government's policy in Germany might be more appropriately addressed to the officials of government responsible for policy and not to the Military Governor, whose responsibility is the execution of and not the making of policy.

Of course, I shall be glad to see you on any subsequent visit to the United States in which scheduled international conferences do not require all available time



Sincerely yours,

*Lucius D. Clay*

LUCIUS D. CLAY  
General, U. S. Army  
Commander-in-Chief, European Theater

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-11-82 BY 222/101

# German-American Republican League

of Greater New York

FOUNDED IN 1936

KURT MERTIG, CHAIRMAN

NEW YORK, N. Y., October 28, 1947.  
317 EAST 54TH STREET

Lt. General Lucius D. Clay  
Hq. OMGUS  
APO 742 c/o PM New York City.

My dear General:-

re: The German Golgatha !

We noted with regret from your letter of October 15th that the limited time of your stay in Washington made it impossible for you to receive our delegation representing thousands of American citizens of German descent to discuss rehabilitation and revitalization of Germany. It is also deplorable that you did not give any information to the press, because an ever increasing tenseness has been created about what is actually happening in Germany due to the recently recrudescence of censorship on communications from and to U. S. occupied Germany. Letters from the Russian occupied zone arrive in three weeks, while it takes six weeks for a letter to arrive here from the U.S. zone.

As close students of German economy we should have very much appreciated an opportunity to discuss with you ways and means how to arrive at a better solution of the problems of Germany - always with a view how to lighten the load of the American taxpayer - because official Washington's and your military Government's uncompromising attitude on the continued dismantling of what manufacturing plants still remain in Germany and shipping them from the British and American occupation zones to England and to Russia, is very puzzling ! -

And so has been your "statement" as to your proposed stoppage of food relief to the German population, in case German workmen should not lend a willing hand in the dismantling of additional 682 industrial German plants, some of which have been constructed since fighting stopped two years and six months ago.-

Did you have in mind also the withholding of parcel post gift packages of American citizens to their starving German kinfolk ? Such chicanery had occurred before ! -

Senator Styles Bridges pointed out in Frankfurt and Berlin on Oct 22:

"It is crazy to shovel out hundreds of millions on one hand, and take out things which would permit the Germans to get on their feet. Reparations should have been taken out from current production of German plants, rather than from actual plant machinery. Machinery in Germany should be used to produce and thus assist in European reconstruction under the Marshall Plan."

235



We have believed right along what Senator C. Wayland Brooks said a few days ago, while visiting Germany:

"The time has come to bring this problem of reparations before the American people and disclose to them that the present American policy toward Germany was based on a bad deal at Potsdam, a stupid Morgenthau Plan and a delayed level-of-industry program".-

Mr. Ernest T. Weir, chairman of the National Steel Corporation of Pittsburgh, Pa., stated in his "Notes on a Trip to Europe" a few days ago:

"There is universal agreement on the part of English business men that Germany must be rehabilitated and a great increase in production brought about by allowing the German people full liberty in the reconstruction of their country. I do not believe we can ever have a going Europe until this is started. The Morgenthau Plan as applied in Germany by our country was one of the great crimes of history.-"

The report of Mr. Hoover, which was endorsed by the group of American business men that was sent to Germany, showed plainly what must be done. The Administration in Washington stated some time ago that they were putting this into effect. This is a complete misrepresentation to the people of this country because nothing has been done so far as I can find. The slightly amended Morgenthau Plan is still in control. This is one thing that Congress must take steps to accomplish - that is, a proper program for the rehabilitation of Germany. We, of course, will have to advance money to Germany to bring that about, but I believe it is one of the safest places in Europe to put funds for reconstruction under a proper plan."

Would you enlighten us as to what you mean when you say in your letter under reply that, in point of fact, the "Morgenthau Plan", as it is commonly understood, has never been applied in Germany. Now, what plan, if any, has been applied by your military government in Germany? -

While it is true that the War Department and the State Department have been responsible for putting into operation that infamous and insane Morgenthau Plan of destruction of German industry in the Ruhr and Saar for the purpose of converting Germany into a principally agrarian country, we must blame your military government of Germany for the exceedingly harsh methods of enforcing that policy - and still keeping it enforced in disregard of Washington's orders to amend it, as we have been assured

We understand - from reports which have leaked out of Germany despite the rigidly enforced censorship - that U. S. Government directives of April 9th and July 16th, 1947, intended to modify that unstatesmanlike previous directive (commonly referred to as the "Morgenthau Plan") have not been carried out by the military and civilian personnel under your command, which requires the immediate dismissal of the guilty parties! -

We hold against your military government of Germany:

- 1) The utter disregard for the absolute minimum necessities of food, clothing and shelter for the helpless, starving and freezing German population;
- 2) Your antagonistic attitude toward the German workmen;
- 3) The unbelievable increase of red tape bureaucracy under your military government in Germany which has brought practically

all rehabilitation of German industry and home building (and repairing) to a complete standstill;

4) Your failure to do anything to correct the disproportionate allocation of German coal to Britain, France, Belgium etc., leaving no coal for re-starting what still remained of industrial plants in Germany and leaving practically nothing to heat German households;

5) Your refusal to permit the Germans to engage in deepsea fishing to increase their insufficient food supply;

6) Your denial to let the Germans engage in whale fishing to procure at least some urgently needed fat and oil (your explanation being that Germany had cut herself off from the territories of whale fishing by the policy of her late government);

7) Your refusal to allocate to the Germans the absolutely necessary material for home canning and preservation of perishable food, thus causing hundreds of thousands of tons of fruit to rot on the trees, and vegetables to rot in the ground - thereby further complicating the food problem for the German population during this coming winter, when the supply of potatoes in Western Germany will become exhausted during December this year, the stocks of grains threatening to become exhausted during January, 1947;

8) Your permitting the ruthless methods of the CIC (Counter Intelligence Corps) - recruited chiefly of persons imbued with hatred and revenge against everything German - and giving such persons free rein to wreak havoc with German institutions and German individuals;

9) Your permitting the Nuremberg trials of German industrialists to continue, when these people have followed only the program dictated by the former German government;

10) Your attitude toward dismantling additional German factories in the British occupation zone, thereby depriving German workers of the means for a living - which means an entirely unnecessary burden for the American taxpayer.

We would suggest for your earnest consideration the following:

- 1) Freeing of all prisoners of war and returning them to their homes;
- 2) Cessation of "De-Nazification"; also of "Nuremberg Trials";
- 3) Ending of German Reparations; Stabilization of German currency; Granting Germany loans for self-help (not for indefinite dole);
- 4) Allowing Germans to get their industries going again; encouraging German exports, so that they can get out of the breadlines and set their own house in order;
- 5) Creating a Central Control Board of competent and unbiased civilians for all of Germany;
- 6) Totally discarding that discredited Morgenthau Plan;
- 7) Accepting reasonable recommendations of American businessmen who have visited Germany, such as of Johns-Manville Corporation, who proposed to set up immediately a reserve of 10 million tons of German coal to keep German industry going, and produce merchandise for export to pay for American relief shipments and thus relieve the U. S. taxpayers.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kurt Mertig*  
Kurt Mertig  
chairman

GERMAN-AMERICAN REPUBLICAN LEAGUE



# German-American Republican League

of Greater New York

FOUNDED IN 1936

19 NOV 1947

KURT MERTIG, CHAIRMAN

NEW YORK, N. Y., November 3, 1947.  
317 EAST 54TH STREET

General Dwight D. Eisenhower  
Chief of Staff  
War Department  
Pentagon Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

We should appreciate it, if you would kindly look into attached exchange of correspondence with Gen. Lucius D. Clay, U. S. Military Governor of Germany, regarding a subject which concerns both humanity as well as relief for the American taxpayer. -

And another matter we should like to commend to your attention:

The cutting, or even better, the eliminating of the present excessive postal rates on gift packages sent by charitable Americans to their starving friends or relatives in Europe.

The suggestion has been made by the weekly Army Times ( and endorsed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and other service groups ) that the Post Office provide free transportation for these food and clothing bundles. The present 14 ¢ a lb. rate is far too heavy a charge on charity. -

It is the more inexcusable, because it lays upon this particular class of freight the task of paying the cost of many times the volume of other items. Why perpetrate such discriminatory injustice ? -

Won't you please help us in our endeavors ? - These matters will shortly come up in Congress.

Thanking you in advance for your co-operation, we beg to remain

very sincerely yours,

*Kurt Mertig*  
Kurt Mertig  
chairman

GERMAN-AMERICAN REPUBLICAN LEAGUE  
Citizens' Protective League, Inc.

encl.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, New York

*JEH* FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: KURT MERTIG  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G  
New York file 100-16314

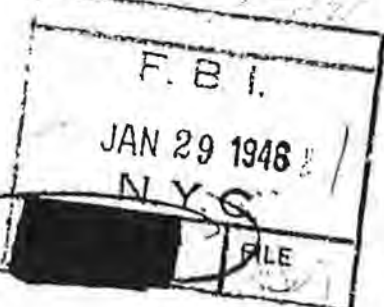
DATE: January 28, 1948

The Criminal Division of the Department has furnished the Bureau with photostatic copies of a letter received by the Chief of Staff of the United States Army from Mertig, enclosing a copy of a letter dated October 28, 1947, written by Mertig to Lieutenant General Gaius D. Clay, Commander-in-Chief, European Theater, as well as a letter from Lieutenant General Clay to Mertig dated October 15, 1947.

One photostatic copy of each of these communications is enclosed hereto for your information in connection with the above-captioned matter.

Attachment.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-8-00 BY 60267 DE/cao/ak





ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-8-00 BY 60267/MS/KAC/pe

### Invitation to Our **Save Europe** Meetings

Every **FRIDAY** Night at 8:30 o'clock  
in the library of the Community Center,  
N. E. cor. of 85th St. and Madison Ave., N. Y. C.  
Every **WEDNESDAY** Night at 8:30 o'clock  
25 West 27th St., (corner B'way) Room 506

We protest the Conspiracy of Silence imposed on  
humanity by the most inhuman groups in the victor nations  
and we demand:

- 1) That all prisoners of war be freed at once and re-  
turned to work in their own country;
- 2) That ~~De~~-Nazification be ended forthwith;
- 3) That German reparations be ended; that Germany  
be granted loans for self-help (not for dole); and that  
the German currency be stabilized;
- 4) That the German people be allowed to get their  
industries going again and that they be allowed to  
export, so that they can get out of the bread lines  
and set their own house in order;
- 5) That, instead of military administrators, a Central  
Control Board of competent and unbiased civilians  
be created for all of Germany;
- 6) That the discredited Morgenthau Plan be totally  
discarded;
- 7) That shipments of relief goods to Germany be per-  
mitted to be made by freight, instead of at the pro-  
hibitively high parcel post rates, which should be re-  
duced forthwith by Congressional action;
- 8) That disregarding the Russian Veto, the U.S. conclude  
immediately fair peace treaties with Germany & Austria!

KURT MERTIG, *Chairman*  
GERMAN-AMERICAN REPUBLICAN LEAGUE  
317 E. 54th St., N. Y. C.

res'd from [redacted]  
[redacted] Staten Island b7c  
Advance  
from SA [redacted]

100-16312-242

#1, JAN 25 1942
NY
ROUTED TO <i>Jdm</i>

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, NEW YORK

DATE: August 2, 1948

FROM : DIRECTOR, FBI

 SUBJECT: KURT MERTIG  
 CITIZENS PROTECTIVE LEAGUE  
 GERMAN AMERICAN REPUBLICAN LEAGUE

MR. EIGHT
MR. OF MONT
MR. WILSON
MR. TOLSON
MR. CLEGG
MR. GLAVIN
MR. LADD
MR. NICHOLS
MR. ROSEN
MR. TRACY
MR. WATSON
PROPERLY CLERK
TRAINING UNIT

This is to advise you that the following letter was received by the Bureau from Mr. T. Vincent Quinn, Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, which is quoted as follows:

"FRIENDS OF DEMOCRACY, INC.  
 137 East 57th Street  
 New York 22, New York

"July 15, 1948

"Attorney General Thomas Clark  
 Department of Justice  
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Attorney General Clark:

"We understand that Kurt Mertig, whose Citizens Protective League and German American Republican League both were included on your latest list of subversive organizations, is instituting proceedings to have your charge against him withdrawn.

"Over the years we have gathered a rather impressive amount of information about Mertig and his activities. If you need it, we shall be happy to furnish this information, or any part of it, to you.

"Yours for the democratic way of life,

b7c "/s/ [REDACTED]

Mr. Quinn requested that the Bureau make arrangements to interview [REDACTED] in order to obtain from him all information pertaining to Mertig and the organizations that he represents. In accordance with this request you are instructed to arrange this interview at an early date and advise the Bureau immediately upon the completion of the interview.

b7c

3-16-48  
 When Case  
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Quinn's

b7c

AUG 4 1948

100-71477

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 5-8-00 BY 60267/105/00/00/00

Director, FBI

September 15, 1948

SAC, New York

KURT MERTIG  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

Reference Bureau letter dated August 2, 1948, entitled KURT MERTIG; CITIZENS PROTECTIVE LEAGUE; GERMAN AMERICAN REPUBLICAN LEAGUE.

Reference letter advised that [redacted] of the Friends of Democracy, Inc., 137 East 57th Street, New York City, had written to the Attorney General, stating that his organization had an impressive amount of information about the subject, and reference letter requested that [redacted] be interviewed for all information pertaining to subject that he possessed.

[redacted] advised that the Friends of Democracy, Inc., had collected all the information in their files into one report concerning KURT MERTIG and his association with the Citizens Protective League, the German American Republican League, and other pro-Nazi associations and individuals.

[redacted] supplied a copy of this report compiled by the Friends of Democracy, Inc. Accordingly, in order that this full report of the Friends of Democracy, Inc., may be available to the Bureau and to the office of the Attorney General, there are being forwarded herewith as enclosures with this letter two photostatic copies of this report compiled by the Friends of Democracy, Inc., in regard to the subject. The original of this report is being maintained in the file on this case in the New York Office.

Accordingly, since there is no further investigation to be conducted in this matter, this case is being maintained in a closed status.

JPM:RAA  
100-16314

Enc. 2

cc - New York file 105-1066

9-27-48  
Chief Clerk:  
Close Case on this.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-8-00 BY 60267/DIS/COO/CEK

b7C

100-16314-1066

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office <b>NEW YORK</b>	Office of Origin <b>NEW YORK</b>	Date <b>8/28/56</b>	Investigative Period <b>6/21,26;7/25;8/6,13-16/56</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>KURT MERTIG</b>		Report made by <b>[REDACTED] b7C</b>	Typed By: <b>dlo</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - X</b>	

Synopsis:

*DECLASSIFIED BY 60267 nls/ce/ce  
ON 5-9-00*

KURT MERTIG listed as Vice President on bank account of NRP, an anti-Negro, anti-Semitic, neo-Fascist organization in NYC. MERTIG currently resides at Apartment 8, 508 Second Avenue, NYC, and is apparently unemployed. MERTIG has been ill for the past several years and appears to have no active participation in the NRP. MERTIG was arrested on 10/6/45 and served six months in jail for unlawful assembly.

- C -

DETAILS:

This report is predicated upon information received from [REDACTED] who is in a position to furnish reliable information, and who indicated on June 1, 1956 that [REDACTED] had [REDACTED]

b2  
b7D  
b7C

Approved <i>[Signature]</i>	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made:  5 - Bureau (65-20553) (RM)  ③ - New York (100-16314)		100-16314-267 <i>je</i>	

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



NY 100-16314

[REDACTED] New York City, in the name of the National Renaissance Party on December 6, 1955.

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[REDACTED] added that [REDACTED] was introduced by KURT MERTIG who maintains [REDACTED]. He stated that the listed purpose of this organization was "educational publications" and that KURT MERTIG was listed as Vice President.

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[REDACTED] added on June 12, 1956, that KURT MERTIG [REDACTED] in July, 1942, and indicated that he was self employed. His address at that time was listed as 317 East 54th Street, New York City, and his present address was listed as 503 Second Avenue, Apartment 8, New York City.

The above information furnished by [REDACTED] should not be made public except after the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

[REDACTED] who has furnished reliable information in the past, indicated on May 9, 1956, that the National Renaissance Party (NRP) at present is a neo-Nazi, anti-Semitic, anti-Negro organization with activities generally confined to the New York area. He said that its principal activities consist of holding outdoor meetings and the distribution of literature throughout the United States and abroad where it is reprinted by similar organizations. He stated the NRP leader and founder is [REDACTED] and its principal financial contributor is [REDACTED]. He said that at present the party membership is very small. The April, 1955, "National Renaissance Bulletin," the official NRP publication, listed headquarters at 10 West 90th Street, New York City.

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The NRP was the subject of a preliminary report on neo-Fascist and hate groups prepared by the House Committee on Un-American Activities on December 17, 1954,

NY 100-16314

which stated that this neo-Fascist group's activities and propaganda are clearly subversive.

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██████████ indicated on July 15, 1953 that KURT MERTIG is a pro-German radical who has been active in German organizations for the past fifteen years. He said that MERTIG had been active in the NRP several years ago, but that illness had forced him to cease his activities. He stated that in July, 1953, MERTIG had again appeared at NRP meetings and was a speaker at one street meeting on July 10, 1953. He added that MERTIG had been sent to Rikers Island, New York, for six months on February 28, 1946, after conviction for inciting to riot and unlawful assembly in connection with his pro-German, anti-Semitic activities.

██████████ who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on June 27, 1950, that MERTIG was the founder of the Citizens Protective League which grew out of the Committee of the Five Hundred, which was established to raise funds for BRUNO HAUPTMANN, convicted defendant in the Lindbergh kidnapping case.

██████████ indicated on September 14, 1953, that MERTIG, who is an old time fascist and who has been in many German national organizations in New York City, has recently made speeches at the meetings of the NRP. ██████████ stated that MERTIG appears to be lending some support to the NRP, although he is not consistent in his actions.

██████████ stated on May 17, 1954, that MERTIG had been active for many years in Fascist organizations in New York City and recently has lent some support to the NRP. He indicated that MERTIG is not considered a strong member of the party and his interest in the affairs of the party is frequently changing.

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██████████ added that MERTIG has been a speaker at some NRP meetings in the past and is being considered by ██████████ as a principal speaker at future outdoor meetings.

NY 100-16314

[REDACTED] noted on January 11, 1955, that MERTIG

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b7C [REDACTED] to the party. He added that MERTIG, who usually takes an active interest in the NRP, has been confined to Bellevue Hospital with an illness in recent weeks.

[REDACTED] who has furnished reliable information in the past, indicated on December 15, 1953, that MERTIG was a former member of the NRP who has completely broken with this organization. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] indicated on June 6, 1955, that [REDACTED] recently wrote a letter to [REDACTED] in Chicago, Illinois, in which he stated that the NRP'S Overseas Bureau is under the supervision of KURT MERTIG and that [REDACTED] are no longer connected with this operation.

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b7D [REDACTED] indicated on August 10, 1955, that MERTIG was one of several members of the NRP who distributed party literature at Broadway and 48th Street, New York City, on August 1, 1955.

[REDACTED] indicated on August 15, 1956, that MERTIG

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b7C [REDACTED] He stated that [REDACTED] has listed MERTIG as an officer of the NRP for several years, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] added that MERTIG originally had given to [REDACTED] MERTIG had accumulated through the years and that [REDACTED] contributions for the NRP.

NY 100-16314

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b7D [redacted] stated that MERTIG has suffered from various illnesses for the past several years and is in very poor health. He added that MERTIG is quite aged and approaching senility.

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b7C [redacted] stated that [redacted] who is an old time sweetheart of MERTIG and a trained nurse, is now living with him at 508 Second Avenue, New York City, and is apparently supporting him and caring for him.

The preliminary report on neo-Fascist and hate groups released by the House Committee on Un-American Activities on December 12, 1954, indicated that KURT MERTIG had become New York City chairman of the NRP and his office at 317 East 54th Street, New York City, had served as the NRP'S City Headquarters and indicated that from this office MERTIG had also operated as chairman of two of his own organizations, the Citizens Protective League and the German-American Republican League of Greater New York. These latter two groups have been cited by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

b7C [redacted] New York City, indicated on June 13, 1956, that KURT MERTIG has resided at the above address in Apartment 8 for about two years. He indicated that MERTIG has been quite ill during most of this time and spent a great deal of time in the hospital recently. He said that at the present time a nurse from Boston has been living with him whose name is [redacted]

[redacted] indicated that it does not appear that MERTIG is regularly employed and that he spends a great deal of his time in his room typing and allegedly writing articles. He stated that he has no information regarding any organizations in which MERTIG is currently active, but that there has been no difficulty with MERTIG as long as he has resided there.

b7C Detective [redacted] Bureau of Special



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NY 100-16314

b7c Services, New York City Police Department, indicated on August 6, 1956, that their records indicated that KURT MERTIG had been arrested on October 6, 1945 for disorderly conduct in connection with a Fascist meeting. He said this charge later was changed to unlawful assembly and MERTIG was found guilty and served six months in jail. [REDACTED] stated MERTIG presently resides at 508 Second Avenue, New York City, and has been in ill health for several years. He said that MERTIG formerly had been associated with the activities of the NRP, but because of illness and advanced age he is no longer active in this organization.

- C -

- 6 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-16314

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source	Date of Activity And/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to whom Furnished	File Number where Located
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b2 b7D b7C	[REDACTED] NYC (by request)	Re [REDACTED] b7D	6/4/56	SA [REDACTED] 105-6112-456
		Re subject.	6/12/56	SA [REDACTED] 105-6112-456

b2 b7D	[REDACTED]	USED TO DOCUMENT THE NRP.		
		Re subject.	7/15/53	SA [REDACTED] 105-6112-68
		Re subject.	9/14/53	SA [REDACTED] 105-6112-89
		Re subject.	5/17/54	SA [REDACTED] 105-6112-165
		Re subject.	1/11/55	SA [REDACTED] 105-6112-224
		Re subject.	6/6/55	SA [REDACTED] 105-6112-306
		Re subject.	8/10/55	SA [REDACTED] 105-6112-340
		Re subject.	8/15/56	SA [REDACTED] Instant report

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

NY 100-16314

INFORMANTS (CONT'D)

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number where Located</u>
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b2  
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[REDACTED]

(by request) Re subject.

6/27/50

SA [REDACTED]

105-1174-  
15

[REDACTED]

New Jersey  
(by request) Re subject.

12/15/53

SA [REDACTED]

105-6112-  
99

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized in the report only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
(FBI)**

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS RELEASE

**SUBJECT: KURT MERTIG and GERMAN-AMERICAN  
REPUBLICAN LEAGUE**

**FOIPA NUMBER: 917,472 and 917,097**

**FILE NUMBER: 100-16314 SECTION 1**

*HD  
65-20553*



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York, New York

100-0  
TJJ:MFK

December 15, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE:

Re: KURT MERTIG;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

b7D  
b7C While the writer was contacting [REDACTED] on October 13, 1941, on other official matters, he furnished the following information concerning KURT MERTIG, 235 East 54th Street, New York City. All the information was taken from reports of employees of [REDACTED]

By report of December 19, 1938, MERTIG attended a CHRISTIAN FRONT meeting as part of a delegation with [REDACTED] from the CITIZENS PROTECTIVE LEAGUE.

By report of January 26, 1939, MERTIG was considered as a partner with one [REDACTED] in the CITIZENS PROTECTIVE LEAGUE.

By report of January 30, 1939, MERTIG attended CHRISTIAN FRONT meetings on January 27, 1939.

By report of February 4, 1939, MERTIG attended AMERICAN NAZI PARTY meeting, which was held on February 1, 1939, at which time, he and [REDACTED] distributed a large bundle of EDMONSTEN bulletins, denouncing those Jews who want war. This distribution was done with the concerning mission of [REDACTED] and the GERMAN-AMERICAN BUND.

By report of March 3, 1939, MERTIG attended a CHRISTIAN FRONT meeting on March 3, 1939, with the husband of [REDACTED] and asked what was going to be done about her. (She is the woman who sold [REDACTED] very widely, and is now [REDACTED] At that meeting, [REDACTED]

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F. B. I.	
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N. Y. C.	
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DATE 3-2-00 BY 60267 WJS/acc/pea

he was told that the organization had done all it could for her.

b7c  
By report of April 29, 1939, he appeared as chairman of a meeting of the CITIZENS PROTECTIVE LEAGUE on November 29, 1939. This same report sets forth that on March 15, 1937, MERTIG participated in a Nazi rally and was described by the New York Times as "an active organizer of a pro-Nazi force of this City". Also at this rally was [REDACTED] National Committee against Communists and [REDACTED] the SILVER SHIRTS.

By report of April 8, 1941, it was indicated that MERTIG was still holding meetings of the CITIZENS PROTECTIVE LEAGUE at Turnhall, and at one of these meetings [REDACTED] appeared and made a speech.

There is also attached to this memorandum, a copy of [REDACTED] two reports which were obtained from [REDACTED] 141 [REDACTED] of the AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS. This is a resume of the complete data appearing in the files of the AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS on KURT MERTIG.

b7c [REDACTED]  
Special Agent

100-0

he was told that the organization had done all it could for her.

*(Sipping seal)*  
By report of April 29, 1939, he appeared as chairman of a meeting of the CITIZENS PROTECTIVE LEAGUE on November 29, 1939. This same report sets forth that on March 15, 1937, MERTIO participated in a Nazi rally and was described by the New York Times as "an active organizer of a pro-Nazi force of this City". Also at this rally was [REDACTED]

b7c National Committee against Communists and [REDACTED] the SILVER SHIRTS.

By report of April 8, 1941, it was indicated that MERTIO was still holding meetings of the CITIZENS PROTECTIVE LEAGUE at Turnhall, and at one of these meetings, [REDACTED] appeared and made a speech.

There is also attached to this memorandum, a copy of two reports which were obtained from [REDACTED] of the AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS. This is a resume of the complete data appearing in the files of the AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS on KURT MERTIO.

b7c [REDACTED]  
Special Agent



## Peace Speaker Found No Nazis in Yorkville

Horace J. Haase, a former member of the America First Committee, now head of a new organization called Americans for Peace, spoke twice in Yorkville in the last two weeks demanding that America get out of the war—saying that "our first objective is the earliest possible peace."

The meetings were sponsored by Kurt Mertig, head of the Citizens' Protective League. The records show that Mr. Mertig once served as head of the League of German National Societies. In 1936 he announced he would run for Mayor on a 100 per cent German-American ticket.

Later, he called a meeting to protest anti-Nazi utterances, at which a former Silver Shirt official spoke.

And he once wrote a two-column endorsement of the German-American Bund paper, the Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter, for Royal S. Copeland for Mayor.

"If I had known about Mr. Mertig's background I would definitely not have gone up there," Mr. Haase declared today. "My associate, John Scott, who is interested in monetary reform, had been invited to speak there on money. He suggested I speak on peace. And when I get a chance, I'll always speak on peace."

"My acquaintance with Mr. Mertig goes back only two weeks. The first time I went up there I realized the audience was very German; but I never heard anything Nazi. The second time I purposely put in an attack on the Nazis and their ideas."

"I don't want this country to be tied up with any other country—certainly not Germany—its whole damn system is wrong."

"I'm for this country getting out of the war and building up its own defenses so that no combination in the world can attack us. I'm afraid that if things go as they have, we will spend our forces so that a successful attack against

the United States is a possibility."

Mr. Haase's organization, Americans for Peace, consists mainly of himself and about 200 members. He has a pamphlet entitled "The United States: A Single Party Club," marked "Single Party Club," 203 E. 116th St., New York, N. Y. 10029. He has about 100 agents, he said, who pressed sympathy while others promised to start chapters in Philadelphia, Yonkers, St. Paul and New Jersey.

The literature marked "The United States map surrounded by a dove and the slogan 'From Atlantic to the Pacific, Americans for Peace' calls for opposition to the United Nations, Communism, and reactionism, and for support of former anti-war Congressmen to face a 'purge' and 'freedom of the press'."

Mr. Haase said he was finishing himself with a few contributions from sympathizers.

He said he was born in Brooklyn; his grandfather having come from Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in 1870.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-2-00 BY 60267/KIS/ack

CLIPPING FROM THE  
NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM

DATE. MAR 20 1942  
FORWARDED BY N.Y. DIVISION

100-16314-3  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
MAR 20 1942

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New York, New York

VGd:EK  
100-

July 13, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: KURT MERTIG  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

On July 9, 1942 [redacted] Bronx, New York, [redacted], visited this office and submitted the following information:

Major HONORE J. JAXON, 81 years old, who resides at 916 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, used to live in Stone Fort at Eastern Boulevard and Whitlock Avenue, Bronx, New York. This fort commanded a view of the Bronx River.

The Department of Welfare was giving JAXON a pension, but did not wish to continue such pension with him living in this run down fort. Consequently they ordered an inspection made of the premises, which inspection was carried out by [redacted] condemned the fort and gave a summons to the Major to appear in court.

An individual named KURT MERTIG, 317 East 54th Street, appeared in court as a friend of JAXON. According to [redacted] MERTIG is the head of the CITIZEN'S PROTECTIVE LEAGUE of Yorkville. On many occasions JAXON, who, according to [redacted] is a well read old gentleman and extremely intelligent, has spoken at meetings of the League, as well as other groups under the wing of MERTIG. In return for these talks to the groups given by JAXON, MERTIG is keeping him.

[redacted] also informed that [redacted]

[redacted] stated that [redacted]

[redacted] However, he advised the writer that [redacted]

According to [redacted] although he has no basis on which to confirm his suspicions, MERTIG is an individual who gives the impression of being readily

100-16314-19

b7c [redacted] JSM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-2-00 BY 60267 JRS/cec/cek

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Memorandum for the file

July 13, 1942

b7D  
b7C [redacted] sympathetic for the German cause. Relative to the citizenship of MERTIG, [redacted] had nothing to offer. In addition, it was thought by [redacted] that, in all probability, MERTIG [redacted] may be using JAXON along subversive lines.

[redacted] stated that MERTIG has made statements to the effect that the meetings between President Roosevelt and Winston Churchill have been nothing but orgies on the boats and that these two men are nothing but perverts.

[redacted] stated that it was his opinion that [redacted]  
[redacted]

b7C [redacted]  
Special Agent



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

**NY** FILE NO. 100-16314 CG

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>7/22/42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>5/1, 2, 4, 5, 15, 25; 6/1, 2, 16, 22, 29; 7/14 &amp; 16, 1942</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] b7c</b>
TITLE <b>KURT MERTIG</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G</b>
<div style="display: flex;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); padding-right: 10px;"> ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 5-1-00 BY 60267/243/00/00/00 </div> <div> <p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b> Subject was born 9/5/86, at Leipsig, Germany. He entered the United States at New York on 12/17/16, via the SS MINAS GERAES from Rio de Janeiro, was naturalized on 1/30/31 and presently resides at 317 East 54th Street, NYC. MERTIG reported to have been affiliated with: German Association for Literature and Art; German-American Republican League; Citizens Committee of 500; League of German National Societies, Christian Fighters and Friends of New Germany. Subject presently heads the Citizens Protective League which held public meetings in Yorkville until 4/17/42 and which has been described as pro-Bund. MERTIG reported to have attended Christian Front and other subversive meetings, and to have sponsored a meeting which was addressed by [REDACTED] of the Silver Shirts. [REDACTED], a repatriated German and Bundist, [REDACTED] as of April 25, 1942. [REDACTED] arranged lists of Nazis anxious to be repatriated and subject is believed to have succeeded [REDACTED] in this work. MERTIG is known to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Mail cover placed on 6/25/42.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- P -</p> <p><b>REFERENCE:</b> Bureau File Number 100-81322; Bureau letter to New York dated May 1, 1942, entitled "Citizens Protective League, Kurt Martig, Sedition". Bureau letter to New York dated July 2, 1942.</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> A review of the file in instant case reflects the following information concerning subject: A file memorandum dated October 17, 1941 contains a reference to a photostatic copy of a letter written by confidential informant [REDACTED] which indicates that MERTIG is receiving large bundles of newspapers from "National Weeklies, Inc.", Winona, Minnesota, a German-American newspaper. Informant's letter indicates that MERTIG resides at 317 East 54th Street,</p> </div> </div>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau (SD) 1 - [REDACTED] 1 - [REDACTED] 2 - New York		100-16314-205 b7c	

NY-100-16314

New York City and that subject anxiously awaits the delivery of these bundles, which arrive twice a week.

b2/b7D A memorandum dated December 15, 1941, in reference to subject, contains information furnished by confidential informant [redacted] as taken from informant's file, which reflects the following information: MERTIG attended a Christian Front Meeting as part of a delegation, with [redacted] from the Citizen's Protective League. Other Christian Front meetings which he attended included those of January 27, 1939 and March 3, 1939. During this time he also attended meetings of the American Nationalist Party, at which he and [redacted] distributed large bundles of EDMONSTEN bulletins. Informant's files reflect that MERTIG is considered a partner with [redacted] in the Citizen's Protective League. The EDMONSTEN bulletins distributed by MERTIG and [redacted] mentioned above, denounced the Jews, who want war, and the distribution took place at an American Nazi Party meeting which was held on February 1, 1939. Subject attended the March 3, 1939 Christian Front meeting with the husband of [redacted] and asked what was going to be done about her. (She is the woman who sold [redacted] very widely, and is now [redacted] On March 15, 1937, MERTIG participated in a Nazi Rally and he was then described by the New York Times as "an active organizer of pro-Nazi forces in this city. [redacted] of the Silver Shirts were among those who addressed this rally. (A photostatic copy of the New York Times article dated March 16, 1937, is enclosed in instant file.

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b7D  
b7C The New York Post of November 27, 1937, in one of its expose articles on the German-American Bund, noted the fact that both the Citizen's Protective League and the Bund have been seeking the impeachment of President ROOSEVELT. (A photostatic copy of this article is also retained in instant file.) Other information obtained from confidential informant [redacted] in conjunction with that which was already reported and set forth in the above mentioned memorandum, indicates that MERTIG is apparently linked up with anti-administration isolationist groups, such as [redacted] "Americans for Peace". [redacted] in March of 1942, had been speaking in Yorkville, demanding that America "conclude an immediate peace", at meetings sponsored by KURT MERTIG. An article appearing in the New York World Telegram on March 20, 1942, which appears in instant file, elaborates on this information.

According to informant, intimates and co-workers of KURT MERTIG have included [redacted]

b7C It is to be noted that reference is made to [redacted] in a case entitled [redacted], with alias, Internal Security-C. New York File No. 100-23431. According to informant, subject has a long history in the organization of German-American organizations, such as the German-American Republican League.



b2/b7D A resume of the complete data appearing in the files of confidential informant [redacted], under date of October 15, 1941, a copy of which is retained in the New York file, indicates that:

"KURT MERTIG was, prior to his arrival in the United States in the middle 'twenties, active as a bursar on German vessels. He finally landed in South America and emigrated from there to the U.S., where he became active as an importer of German merchandise. He is now 50 years old and has acquired American citizenship.

b7C "Up to about 1934 he was vice-president of the 'German Literary Society,' (Deutscher Literarischer Verein). This society concerned itself with the dissemination of German culture among its members and was rather harmless, politically. It was KURT MERTIG who tried to bring a Nazi note into the society. He engaged [redacted] to give a report on Germany, which the latter opened with a raised right arm and by saluting 'heil.' MERTIG, who was the chairman at that meeting, prohibited the interrogation of the speaker with regard to the suppressive policy of the Nazi regime. This and other manifestations of his pro-Nazi attitude led to a break between MERTIG and the 'German Literary Society.' He seceded with a number of other members and with them founded a semi-Nazi organization devoted to seemingly unobjectionable aims with the harmless name 'Gesellschaft fur Literatur.' Its real purpose, however, was to provide all travelling salesmen in Nazism, coming from Germany, with a rostrum.

b7C "He utilized the sensational Lindbergh-Hauptmann affair to establish a so-called 'Committee of 500', for the defense of BRUNO HAUPTMANN. Defense funds for HAUPTMANN were collected and mass meetings were arranged under the auspices of this Committee where [redacted] of Brooklyn and [redacted] of Flemington, New Jersey, HAUPTMANN'S defense counsels, [redacted] and the former magistrate, CHARLES OBERWAGER, spoke. At these meetings anti-Semitic literature was distributed freely. In these writings the kidnapping and murder of the Lindbergh baby were described as a 'Jewish ritual murder' and 'Jewish conspiracy' planned by 'secret directions' from a 'supreme council of Jews and Freemasons.' Obviously the entire incident was utilized as an opportunity to promote Nazism and anti-Semitism in the United States.

"Out of this 'Committee of 500' grew MERTIG'S new racket. He established a letterhead organization called the 'Citizen's Protective League,' located at the Turnhall, 1253 Lexington Avenue in New York City. It had its meetings regularly on Monday evenings at that address. The League had only 50 members but displayed a very efficient and vociferous publicity. Indeed, MERTIG succeeded in duping the Republican



NY-100-16314

National Committee into having them appoint him as assistant chairman of the German division during the national elections of 1936. In that year the League endorsed Royal Scott Gulden of the Order of '76, a subversive organization, when he ran for office."

\* \* \* \*

b7C "Whether or not MERTIG is an organized Nazi cannot be established, but his close connection with [redacted] a registered Nazi agent, his close cooperation with the 'Friends of the New Germany,' the forerunner of the 'German-American Bund,' his speeches, articles and behaviour during the HAUPTMANN trial, indicate strongly his real point of view."

b2 b7D An excerpt from a report dated March 23, 1942, received from confidential informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, indicates that "The citizen's protective League held a meeting at [redacted] New York City, on [redacted] at which the injustices done to the poor people at Ellis Island was the topic of discussion."

b2 b7D b7C A memorandum dated April 11, 1942, contains information received from confidential informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, which indicates that KURT MERTIG was closely associated with [redacted] New York City, and that MERTIG is the man referred to previously by this informant as distributing German literature for [redacted] This happened before the war, when MERTIG was associated with the "Christian Fighters". Informant described MERTIG as an American citizen, strongly pro-German, but not a member of the Nazi Party and was characterized by informant as a little crazy. His occupation is given to be that of a textile machinery man and it is indicated that MERTIG formerly came often to [redacted] and also to see [redacted] and his secretary, [redacted]

b2 b7D In a report dated July 1, 1942, from confidential informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, there is contained an unsolicited report obtained from a confidential source believed to be reliable by confidential informant [redacted] which reads as follows:

"KURT MERTIG has for several years been a co-leader of the CITIZENS PROTECTIVE LEAGUE and the COMMITTEE OF 500, the latter a so-called defense committee for BRUNO HAUPTMANN, who was electrocuted for kidnapping and killing Charles Lindbergh's son. Both of these organizations were used for subversive purposes [redacted]

b7D b7C New York City. MERTIG'S [redacted]

They had [redacted]

New

New

b7C/b7D York City, where [REDACTED]

"It came to our notice recently that one [REDACTED] at KURT MERTIG'S home. This man let it be openly known that he was in charge of arranging a list of Nazis who are anxious to be repatriated. This man has already gone back on the Drottingholm. We also have reason to believe, and it can be checked with the passenger list, that [REDACTED] was not his correct name. [REDACTED] bragged about his association with [REDACTED] the Bund. There was a man associated with [REDACTED] whose name was [REDACTED]. We are now informed by internees at Ellis Island that KURT MERTIG has succeeded [REDACTED] in this work and that the latter left in MERTIG'S care a list of Nazis and German Nationals. We know of at least two internees, [REDACTED], who have received letters from KURT MERTIG, asking them what their desires are concerning repatriation.

"It is said that he has communicated with many more on Ellis Island and elsewhere. It is possible that MERTIG has this list at his home. It is also possible that he has secreted it somewhere. He would trust [REDACTED]

In memorandum dated July 13, 1942, confidential informant [REDACTED] furnished information to the effect that he is friendly with Major HONORE J. JAXON, who is eighty-one years old, and who is being kept by subject in return for talks given by JAXON at meetings of the Citizen's Protective League. JAXON has told informant that he has seen several paid Nazi agents at meetings of the Citizen's Protective League, but just how JAXON knows that these individuals are paid Nazi agents, is unknown to informant. Informant stated that MERTIG has made statements to the effect that the meetings between President Roosevelt and Winston Churchill have been nothing but orgies on the boats and that these two men are nothing but perverts.

A report dated February 24, 1941, of confidential informant [REDACTED] whose identity is known to the Bureau (New York File 65-4309-661 and 552) indicates that the Citizen's Protective League meetings are attended by Bundists and that the members consist of KURT MERTIG, Major HONORE JAXON, [REDACTED]

Accompanying a letter to the Bureau dated June 14, 1938, re subversive activities - General, (New York File 61-507) there was transmitted a folder put out by [REDACTED] dated May 12, 1938, wherein [REDACTED]

NY-100-16314

b7c discusses the dismissal of the court case against him. On the last pages of this folder, [REDACTED] lists names of people who supported him and among them appear the name of the Citizen's Protective League, of New York City.

In a report by Special Agent [REDACTED], dated at New York, October 22, 1937, entitled "Nazi Camps in the United States -- Subversive Activities" (New York file 61-520, Page 15), [REDACTED]

ROLAND GERMAN-AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY OF GREATER NEW YORK, stated that "the Citizen's Protective League (and other organizations) are what might be termed pro-Bund. The Citizen's Protective League and the Deutscher Front Kampfer, are part of the Bund."

In a case entitled [REDACTED] with aliases, et al. -- Espionage" (New York File 65-51-685) there appears a translated letter which reads as follows:

"New York, New York  
April 20, 1938

[REDACTED]  
New York, N.Y.

Highly honored [REDACTED]

"The German Association for Literature and Art expresses its thanks to you and to the German-American Art Guild, for your and [REDACTED] beautiful picture and for [REDACTED] exquisite placard, which you were so kind as to provide for us.

"With hope that you and the honorable members of your Artist's Guild are convinced, that we are also, in the future, under the leadership of our beloved president, Dr. Q. T. GRIMMEL, will do everything in order to build up further the work already begun.

"Please extend our regards to [REDACTED] and the other gentlemen and we greet you most heartily.

Faithfully yours,  
KURT MERTIG  
German Association for  
Literature and Art"

In a letter to the Bureau dated August 9, 1938, re [REDACTED] with aliases, et al. -- Espionage" (New York File



65-51-1050) further reference is made to KURT MERTIG and it is indicated that [REDACTED] is associated with the Womens Division of the German-American-Bund and that she is believed to have contributed somewhat to the financial support of the Bund. b7c

At the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, 641 Washington Street, Special Agent [REDACTED] reviewed File No. 2-98494, which indicates that KURT MERTIG filed a Petition for citizenship No. 92661 on October 24, 1930, in the Bronx County Supreme Court, at New York. At that time he was residing at 3477 Knox Place, Bronx. It is indicated that he was born September 5, 1896 at Leipsig, Germany, and on his Declaration of Intention, which was filed December 28, 1923, in the same court, it is indicated that his wife, IDA was born in Naples, Italy, June 7, 1898. They were married May 19, 1917, in New York City. Subject's wife entered New York City in 1916, but at the time subject filed his Petition for Naturalization, it is indicated that she and two children, BEATRICE, born at New York City, November 30, 1919 and PATRICIA, born at New York City on January 4, 1921, were at Anacapri, Italy. Subject's last foreign address was Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and he lawfully entered the United States at the Port of New York on December 17, 1916, via the SS MINAS GERAES, from Rio de Janeiro. MERTIG was admitted to citizenship on January 30, 1931 and witnesses to his citizenship were HENRY R. BAUMANN, 1343 Merriam Avenue, Bronx, and CARL HOCHREUTHER, 136 West 96th Street, New York City.

Special Agent [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was described as being pro-German [REDACTED]

In the case entitled [REDACTED] with aliases, et al - Espionage-Q" (New York File 65-1819) it is further to be noted that [REDACTED] was known to subject [REDACTED]

Subject's occupation at the time of naturalization was listed as salesman and when he entered the United States he was destined to his uncle, G. O. REICHARDT, New York City. References in the New York files indicate that G. O. REICHARDT, 514 West 62nd Street, New York City is an alien employed at the Bethlehem Steel Company, Hoboken, New Jersey (New York File 65-8969-2). MERTIG'S employment from 1916 to 1926 was given to be in care of DETERMANN & COMPANY, INC. 132 Front Street, New York City, and from 1926 to the date of filing his Petition for citizenship, it was indicated that he had his own business at 132 Front Street. The records did not indicate the nature of this business and no reference to DETERMANN & COMPANY, INC. is maintained in the files of this office.



b2 The records of confidential informant [redacted] indicate that KURT MERTIG, 317 East 54th Street, registered on April 26, 1942. He was born September 5, 1896, at Leipzig, Germany, and it was indicated that he is in business for himself as a merchandise broker at the above mentioned residence address. The records describe subject as follows:

Color	White
Height	5' 10"
Weight	190 lbs
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Grey
Complexion	Ruddy

b2 b7D b7C The following information was obtained by reporting agent from confidential informant [redacted]. The Citizen's Protective League is an outgrowth of the Committee of 500 and came into being around 1938. One of the main speakers for subject and [redacted] at the Citizen's Protective League meetings, is [redacted] New York, who, according to informant, disseminates subversive literature and literature on monetary affairs. Others reported to be associated with subject are:

b7C [redacted] who is reported to have returned from Germany in 1939 and to have addressed a meeting for MERTIG, wherein he, [redacted] stated, "You fight HITLER and there will be a gold star mother on every street corner."

[redacted] of Charlottesville, Virginia, one of MERTIG'S backers.

[redacted] proprietor of [redacted] on [redacted] New York, a contributor, adviser and helper of MERTIG'S. Informant states that [redacted] helps everyone and is a key to tons of information and advised that [redacted] told one of informant's friends that he, [redacted] was a spy in the last war.

PETE STAHLBERG, a co-worker of MERTIG'S, who printed a newspaper entitled "The American Nationalist" which has been sold at Citizen's Protective League meetings. ✓

b2 b7D [redacted] meeting called by [redacted] at [redacted] on [redacted] the following individuals were present: KURT MERTIG; [redacted] a supporter of MERTIG; [redacted] a supporter of MERTIG in the past and present [redacted]

[redacted] mentioned above; [redacted] and numerous other individuals whom informant called leading Nazis and Fascists. Informant further stated that MERTIG was instrumental in helping raise bail for [redacted]

NY-100-16314

b7c [redacted] was believed by informant to be a spy. It is to be noted that a Dr. Q. T. GRIEHL was mentioned above in a letter from subject to [redacted]. In conclusion, informant stated that [redacted], formerly spoke at Bund meetings and that [redacted] and subject were associated with the Friends of the New Germany, where MERTIG is said to have fought on matters of policy and control.

b2  
b7D  
b7c Further information concerning subject was obtained from confidential informant [redacted] who claims to know subject personally and who advised that the Citizen's Protective League [redacted], in Yorkville, but have since been [redacted] Citizen's Protective League which may possibly mean, according to the informant, [redacted] MERTIG. This informant stated that MERTIG keeps the membership list of the Citizen's Protective League [redacted]. A letter dated [redacted] from 235 East 54th Street, (subject's former place of residence) was addressed to informant who, for the purposes of the information contained in the letter used a fictitious name, was signed by KURT MERTIG, and reads as follows:

"Thank you for your inquiry of the 15th inst.

"We hold our weekly meetings since two weeks, in the homes of the trustees of our group rotating weekly.

"Due to the cramped space in the various apartments, we had to limit the attendance to twenty, at least for the time being.

"I shall keep your name on file, so that I can notify you when we again shall meet in public halls.

"Our motto is contained in the pledge to the flag, 'With liberty and justice to all.

Sincerely,

(signed) KURT MERTIG"

KURT MERTIG was not known to [redacted]

b7c [redacted], but [redacted], New York City, advised the writer that MERTIG has occupied apartment [redacted]



NY-100-16314

b2  
b7D  
#8, since July, 1941 and pays a monthly rent of \$14.00. At his present place of residence, the following appeared on his mail box in the hallway on May 1, 1942, "America-Herold Kurt Murtig, Major Honore J. Jaxon." It is to be noted that JAXON was mentioned above by confidential informant [redacted] and the files of the New York office reflect that the America-Herold is a German newspaper, published in Winona, Minnesota. This publication may possibly be that which is referred to above by confidential informant [redacted].

b7C  
On June 18, 1942 the name JAXON no longer appeared on subject's mail box, but had been substituted by the name [redacted]. In a case entitled [redacted], alias [redacted] Internal Security -G; Alien Enemy Control", (New York File 100-14638) it is indicated that the subject in said case is an internee on Ellis Island. According to this information it is possible that MERTIG is receiving mail at his residence address for this internee.

The only information contained in the records of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York, Inc, 393 7th Avenue, reflects that KURT MERTIG, 1841 East 27th Street, was a defendant in a suit filed by BRUNO SCHMIDT, which was filed in the First District, Manhattan, April 27, 1926 (Docket #22235) for a \$100.00 loan. The attorney for the plaintiff in this case was JOHN A. KLEIT, or KLEET; and that KURT MERTIG, 1253 Lexington Avenue, was a defendant in another suit filed in the Third District, Manhattan on March 25, 1927, by ERNEST RAPSON (Docket #5779) for services rendered in the amount of \$35.00; in this case H. SACHER was the attorney for the plaintiff. There was no reference in the files to the Citizen's Protective League.

b7C  
On June 16, 1942, [redacted] forwarded to this office a letter which was sent to [redacted] a tenant in a house for which she is an agent and part owner. [redacted] advised that she had been told that [redacted] was deported. The letter enclosed by [redacted] was addressed to [redacted], New York City, with a return address, KURT MERTIG, 317 East 54th Street, New York City, was written in German and upon being translated was found to read as follows:

"317 East 54th St.  
New York, N.Y.  
June 11, 1942

Dear Comrades:

If you could take care of the customs clearance of your entire baggage on Friday between 9 and 5 o'clock at Pier 30, Brooklyn (not 29) instead of on Saturday morning you could spare yourself trouble and loss of time.

NY-100-16314

"At any rate, the customs matter should be taken care of in the New York Customs House (near Bowling Green Station on the Lexington Ave. line, or the Whitehall Station on the BMT) on Friday between 9 and 5, inasmuch as no one can go aboard ship without a 'sailing permit'.

"Again I wish you bon voyage and good luck for the future. I remain with heartiest greetings,

Kurt Mertig"

The original of this letter was written on onion skin paper; evidently several copies were made at one time, inasmuch as an identical copy was found in the possession of another repatriated German when his baggage was searched prior to sailing on the SS NYASSA for Lisbon. A copy of the letter written in German and its translation are being retained in this file.

In a file entitled "Repatriation of German, Japanese and Italian Nationals" (New York File 100-27135) it is indicated that [redacted] referred to above, sailed for Lisbon on June 13, aboard the SS NYASSA, with his wife, [redacted] and their three children. b7c

The report of confidential informant [redacted] dated May 14, 1942, mentioned above, indicates that [redacted] KURT MERTIG at 317 East 54th Street, and states that [redacted] boasts of [redacted] the Bund in New York and of being useful to [redacted] on various occasions. The report also reflects that [redacted] claims that he will be one of the first civilians to go back on an exchange of civilians between here and Germany, and he, [redacted] is supposed to be collecting a lot of useful information for the time he gets back. (It is to be noted that [redacted] is mentioned above in a report dated July 1, 1942, from confidential informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.) b2 b7D b7C

On June 4, 1942, Special Agent [redacted] searched the baggage of [redacted] at Ellis Island prior to the sailing of the SS DROTTNINGHOLM for Lisbon, which boat was taking the repatriated Germans, Italians and Japanese back to their native lands. According to Agent [redacted] a draft registration card from Selective Service Local Board No. 40, indicated [redacted] address to be [redacted], at the time of his registration on February 15, 1942 and in a letter dated April 25, 1942, which was addressed by [redacted] b7c



NY-100-16314

b7C  
to the Swiss Legation in Washington, D. C., [redacted] address was given to be [redacted] MERTIG. On an accident insurance policy with the Travellers Insurance Company, No. [redacted] occupation was given to be that of an employee of [redacted] which, according to the policy, was also [redacted] address; said policy was dated July 26, 1935. A Travellers Life Insurance policy No. [redacted] under the same date, listed [redacted] occupation as [redacted] at [redacted] New York City. [redacted] admitted to Special Agent [redacted] that he had written the Swiss Consul in New York City and had given them a list of approximately 100 individuals who wanted to be repatriated on the SS DROTTHNINGHOLM. He also admitted having sent packages and gifts to German internees at various camps. At the time this search was made, a picture of [redacted] his fiancée, [redacted] and KURT MERTIG, was found in [redacted] effects, and a reprint of this picture is being maintained as a part of this file. It is to be noted that [redacted] accompanied [redacted] on the SS DROTTHNINGHOLM, bound for Lisbon.

The close association between subject in this case and [redacted] may be exemplified by the following quoted authorization which was signed by [redacted] and witnessed by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted], U.S.N.:

"I authorize any Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to obtain the key for my safe deposit box in the Seaboard Trust Co. in Hoboken, New Jersey, from Mr. MERTIG or my brother. To open said box and to remove the contents."

All of the above information concerning [redacted] will be set out in a report by Special Agent [redacted] at a later date, entitled [redacted] Espionage-G."

b2  
b7C  
To further substantiate the fact that MERTIG and [redacted] were friendly, confidential informant [redacted] advised the writer that he recalls having delivered mail to [redacted] MERTIG, [redacted] some time in the past three to six months. This informant stated that he believed MERTIG to be a distributor of the America-Herald, mentioned above, and stated that MERTIG used to get letters from Germany and from his wife, who is evidently in Naples, Italy.

b7C  
In connection with the case entitled [redacted] with aliases, et al., Espionage, Sabotage - G" (New York File 65-11065), reporting Agent had occasion to be present during an interview with [redacted]

672 [redacted] wife of one of the subjects in the [redacted] case and during the course of conversation she indicated that she was approached by [redacted] mentioned above, in regard to her repatriation and also mentioned that she was acquainted with KURT MERTIG, whom she met through [redacted]. Further questioning concerning this acquaintanceship was not stressed at that time by the writer. In reference to the same case herein mentioned, [redacted] was asked by the writer whether or not he knew [redacted] or KURT MERTIG, and in answer to this question [redacted] stated that he had met MERTIG when the latter was with [redacted] in a bar in Yorkville, but did not know MERTIG well. He stated at the time of this meeting [redacted] was endeavoring to get donations from various individuals for the purpose of sending gifts and packages to German internees.

On June 25, 1942, a thirty-day mail cover was placed upon the mail addressed to [redacted] at [redacted] the results of which will be reported at a later date.

The following is a list of quoted articles appearing in various New York newspaper publications which concerned subject:

"11/20/33

To the editor of the N.Y. Times. 'Stable Currency Needed.' I was approached recently by the representative of one of the big life insurance companies to take out additional insurance. I asked him to make the following report: Prerequisite to any long-time contract is a stable currency, i.e., the assurance that one gets what one paid for when an obligation matures. That I had not heard of life insurance companies or savings banks, the depositories of the savers' resources, energetically protesting against inflation, and that under these circumstances I considered it strange that they should continue to ask any thinking man to entrust his savings with them ... Our present currency policy only undermines the last pillar of safety to which people can cling. Export business is at a standstill, since no responsible business man who has sold in the past, as I have done, on three month's credit can continue to do so without gambling, and to insert a gold clause into any offer would result in a flat refusal on the part of the customer. Dated N.Y. 11/15/33 signed K. Mertig."

"8/16/35

NAZIS HERE SCORE CURLEY. A letter to Gov. James M. Curley of Mass. condemning the 'action and stand taken by the House of Rep. of Mass, its speaker and you, in ruthlessly censoring Germany for alleged acts in the conduct of its own affairs', was sent yesterday by Kurt Mertig, secretary of the League of German National Societies. Mr. Mertig said a resolution

of condemnation had been adopted Wed. by representatives of the league, which he said had a membership of 'several thousand American citizens, or prospective citizens, of german descent.' "

"1/12/36

RALLY TO PROTEST EXECUTION...Kurt Mertig, secretary of the League of German National Societies, announced yesterday that the citizen's committee of 500 of which he is chairman, would hold a protes meeting tomorrow night in the Central Opera House, 67th St. and 3rd Ave. against the execution of Bruno Hauptmann. He said that John L. Sundean, an attorney of Minneapolis and Scarsdale, N.Y. would present 'a new angle'."

"1/18/36

DENIES HAUPTMANN THEFT. Retired Lawyer accused of Taking \$300 collected at Meeting.....The money was gathered in small envelopes while speeches were being made in the meeting in the Central Opera House in East 67th St. Kurt Mertig of 1253 Lexington Ave., Chairman of the meeting, said in court yesterday he protested that the entrance fee to the meeting of 25 cents was sufficlen, but John L. Sundean persisted, and later, when the committee demanded the money mentioned a brief he said he was preparing to clear Hauptmann, copies of which he felt the committee should buy from him ....."

"N.Y. TIMES 1/30/36

AID TO HOFFMAN PLEDGED. 300 at Yorkville Meeting Aske 'Justice' in Hauptmann Case. \_\_\_\_A resolution pledging support to Gov. Harold G. Hoffman of N.J. 'in his fight to see justice done in the Hauptmann case' was adopted last night by a meeting held in the N.Y. Turn Halle, 85th St. and Lex. Ave., under the auspices of the Citizens Committee of 500 to Obtain a New Trial for Hauptmann. The resolution was presented by Kurt Mertig, chairman of this committee, and was adopted unanimously by the 300 persons, mostly of German extraction, who attended. Rudolph Thielen, who described himself as a student of criminology reviewed the evidence of the Hauptmann trial and declared it inconclusive. The org. is to hold another meeting at Ebling's Casino 156th and St. Anns Ave., the Bronx, on Feb. 4th."

"3/13/37

German Boycott of Fair is Denied....Refers to a report that Germany would boycott the N.Y. World's Fair of 1939 because of Mayor LaGuardia's recent anti-Nazi remarks was discredited yesterday at the offices of the World Fair Corporation in the Emp State Bldg.....Kurt Mertig, chairman of the Citizens Protective League, announced last night



that he had sent a telegram to the House Rules Committee in Washington protesting Rep. Samuel Dickstein's proposal to investigate fascism in this country.

"MIRROR 3/17/36

RALLY FOR BRUNO HELD IN TURNHALL ....The first of four eleven-hour mass meetings held in an effort to bring about a new trial for Bruno Richard Hauptmann, kidnap murderer of the Lindbergh baby, was held last night in Turnhall, Lex. Ave. and 85th St. under the sponsorship of the 'Citizens Committee of 500' ....'Mrs Hauptmann will not be present,' said Chairman Kurt Mertig, 'Our purpose is to gather information that will affect the legal aspect of the case. We do not seek to inject any sentimentality in our effort.' "

NEW YORK POST, dated 12/11/37, addressed to Editor of the New York Post:

"SIR:

"We know that you consider as a Nazi or as a Fascist everyone who does not agree with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 'un-American' form of government, and we also know that you delight in labelling with the same terms every patriotic American citizen who objects to the behavior and publicity stunts of that noted, if not notorious 'non-sectarian' anti-Nazi league and other intolerant Jewish groups.

"The jumbled story appearing on the front page of your paper of November 27, about the Citizens Protective League is a sample of incorrect information and unfair publicity.

"Will you retract the untrue statement that the writer is a lieutenant of Fritz Kuhn and the Nazi Fuherer in America?

Citizens Protective League  
Kurt Mertig, Chairman "

(The item referred to concerning the November 27, 1937 story is contained in the files of this case, as mentioned above.)

WORLD-TELEGRAM, dated August 16, 1941, captioned "What Wasn't Reported deemed More Important, by KURT MERTIG:

"The things Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill still may keep silent about are worrying the citizenry; reached secretly, without the consent of Congress. It certainly was not necessary to employ all the propaganda machine to build up such a conference in order to publish more and more glittering generalities. We have a government by subterfuge, because our President is an internationalist. Franklin D. Roosevelt is subversive to everything we have held sacred."

A P E N D I N G -



NY-100-16314

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At New York City

b7c  
b7D  
b2  
Will obtain all information pertaining to KURT MERTIG in the possession of confidential informant [REDACTED], whose identity is known to the Bureau and at this time will attempt to ascertain whether or not KURT MERTIG has succeeded [REDACTED] in the work of arranging lists of Nazis who are anxious to be repatriated, as mentioned in the report dated July 1, 1942, submitted by confidential informant [REDACTED]

Will report the results of the thirty-day mail cover placed on June 25, 1942, and will renew this cover for an additional thirty days, if the same is deemed advisable.

b2  
b7D  
Will consider the advisability of contacting Major HONORE J. JAXON for further information in his possession regarding subject's present activities and associates. It is noted that confidential informant [REDACTED] mentioned in instant report is of the opinion that JAXON would, in all probability be very cooperative, if approached for information concerning MERTIG.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

b2 The confidential informants mentioned in the report of  
Special Agent [REDACTED] dated July 23, 1942, at New York City,  
are as follows:

b2  
b7D  
b7C

- [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] New York, United States mail carrier,  
New York City.

- [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], New York City;

- [REDACTED] New York City,

- [REDACTED] Bronx.

- New York: [REDACTED] New York City, [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] New York City:

- [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] New York City:

- [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] mail carrier, [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] New York City;

- Selective Service Local Board No. 40, 139 East 54th  
Street, New York City.

Date prepared-August 26, 1942

NEW YORK DISTRICT

Case under Denaturalization Program

1. KURT MERTIG.
2. Naturalized January 30, 1931 in the Supreme Court, Bronx County, Bronx, New York.
3. Certificate No. 3427156 issued January 30, 1931.
4. Former nationality-German.
5. Present address: 1253 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York.
6. Judicial District: United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.
7. Information in the files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service:

Subject filed declaration of intention No. 62277 in the Supreme Court of Bronx County, New York on December 28, 1923.

He filed petition for naturalization No. 92661 in the same court on October 24, 1930 in which he alleged that he was a salesman by occupation; that he was born in Leipzig, Germany on September 5, 1886 of the German race; that he was married to a native of Italy whose given name was Ida; that his wife and daughter, Patricia, were residing temporarily at Capri, Italy and that his other daughter, Beatrice, was residing in New York; that he was admitted to the United States at New York, New York on December 17, 1916, ex SS Minas Geraes; and that he immigrated to the United States from Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

The witnesses sponsoring his petition were Henry R. Baumann, occupation-insurance agent, then residing at 1343 Merriam Avenue, Bronx, New York, and Carl Hochrenther, occupation-exporter, then residing at 136 West 96th Street, Bronx, New York.

b7C On July 14, 1942, [REDACTED] New York, New York, communicated with the New York office of this Service by telephone and stated that this subject is 1942

C O P Y

100-16314-31

N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO	FILE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-2-00 BY 60267WJ/cac/kef

outspoken sympathizer with the present German government.

The records of the New York office of this Service indicate that the subject was formerly the head of the Citizens' Protective League and Committee of 500. The first mentioned organization is said to be political and operated by this subject. The latter organization was alleged to be founded by subject in connection with the Hauptmann case. It is also indicated that subject has been in the German-American Bund movement for about five years and was allegedly well known in Germany for his work on behalf of the Nazi Party in the United States. He is also alleged to be a close friend of [REDACTED] b7C

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CC to Federal Bureau of Investigation

C O P Y



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
(FBI)**

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS RELEASE

**SUBJECT: KURT MERTIG and GERMAN-AMERICAN  
REPUBLICAN LEAGUE**

**FOIPA NUMBER: 917,472 and 917,097**

**FILE NUMBER: 100-16314 SECTION 2**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CASE ORIGINATED: NEW YORK, NEW YORK

NY FILE No. 100-16314 AMN

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE MADE 11/2/42	PERIOD 9/10, 29, 30/10/ 13-17, 19, 20/42	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7C
TITLE  KURT MERTIG			CHARACTER  INTERNAL SECURITY - G
<p>SYNOPSIS:</p> <p>Grand Jury Subpoena Duces Tecum obtained from USA, SDNY, 10/13/42 and served by authority of Bureau on KURT MERTIG, 317 E. 54 St., NYC, on 10/14/42. Subject refused, then signed Consent to Search after talking with Assistant USA JOHN F. SOMNETT, SDNY, about his constitutional rights. Material found includes a list given to subject by [REDACTED] containing, according to subject's admission, the names of about 100 Nazi Party members. [REDACTED] alleged to have prepared list of repatriates at the request of the German Government and it is believed that most of them have been returned. A large quantity of correspondence indicating that MERTIG has been acting as middle man between the Swiss Consulate and German Nationals desiring to return to Germany, and for German aliens who object to military service, was also obtained. In course of interview, MERTIG admitted being chairman of the Citizens Protective League 1936 to 1942, and Vice President of the German Society for Letters and Arts 1934 to 1937. Denied membership in German-American Bund, Kyffhaeuser Bund, or any other German organization. Subject has [REDACTED] but has no apparent source of income. List of names on [REDACTED] list and other materials set forth. Hallicrafter short wave receiving set found and confidential source [REDACTED]. Three sugar ration books for [REDACTED] also found.</p> <p align="center">- P -</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED [Signature]		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
5 Bureau 2 Baltimore 1 [REDACTED] ONI 1 [REDACTED] G-2 1 USA, SDNY 4 New York		100-16314-284    	

# 917742  
 # 917097  
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 5-4-00 BY 62267/AL/SP/CC/PLK

b7D

b7C  
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NY file 100-16314

REFERENCE

Bureau letter dated October 10, 1942.

b7C Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] at New York City dated September 16, 1942.

DETAILS

In accordance with instructions contained in Bureau letter dated October 10, 1942 and the Departmental Memorandum attached thereto Grand Jury Subpoena Duces Tecum was obtained from Assistant United States Attorney JOHN F. SONNETT, Southern District of New York, on October 13, 1942, to KURT MERTIG and the Citizens Protective League calling for production of the records of that organization.

b7C The writer, accompanied by Special Agents [REDACTED] went to the subject's residence at 317 East 54 Street, New York City and requested MERTIG to sign a Waiver of Search which MERTIG refused to do. The subpoena Duces Tecum was then served on the subject who still refused to permit the agent to touch any of his property claiming that he had no records of the Citizens Protective League. He agreed to voluntarily accompany the agents to the United States Court House for an interview with Mr. SONNETT, whom he wanted to see about his constitutional rights.

During the course of this interview and also interview with Bureau agents, MERTIG finally consented to a search of his apartment and signed an appropriate Waiver. He then accompanied the above-mentioned agents to his residence where a search was made.

The following constitutes the material which was found and brought to the New York Office at this time and which will be discussed more fully later on in this report:

- b7C
1. An untitled list of names consisting of nine pages;
  2. A list of names consisting of three typewritten pages entitled Balance of [REDACTED] List to be Liquidated by K. M.;
  3. List consisting of two typewritten pages entitled Remaining Individuals from Legation Memo of May 30, as well as a list containing 22 names and entitled Persons from Previous List Handed in to the German Embassy and Omitted by [REDACTED] by oversight on last list;
  4. Also taken at this time were the following files in connection with letters written by Mertig to the Adjutant General, United

NY file 100-16314

States Army; the President; the Attorney General; Secretary of War, and Secretary of State, protesting the induction of four German aliens into the United States Army:

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A - [REDACTED], South Carolina;  
B - [REDACTED], Astoria, L. I.;  
C - [REDACTED], Ridgewood, L. I.;  
D - [REDACTED], Brooklyn, N. Y.;

5. A file containing copies of letters over the signature of MERTIG, as Chairman of the Citizens Protective League, and FELIX LEINER, to the President; the Editors of the New York Times and New York Daily News; American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born; Civil Liberties Union; Legal Aid Society; Consulate General of Switzerland; MATHIAS F. CORREA, United States Attorney, and the Attorney General, protesting the arrest of HELMUT LEINER and also the treatment given him during his detention at the Federal House of Detention in New York City. LEINER has been indicted for treason by a Grand Jury in the Southern District;
6. MERTIG's files containing copies of typewritten letters he has written to various Public Officials in connection with the internment and repatriation of various German aliens from the New York area. Approximately 57 such files were obtained and seven miscellaneous correspondence and papers.

There is being set forth, at this time, the three lists referred to above and they are being set forth in full with all notations appearing thereon. It is realized that these lists contain several duplications of names.

LIST #1

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1. [REDACTED] Astoria L.I., NY  
2. [REDACTED] internec Camp Meade  
3. [REDACTED] internec Camp Meade  
4. [REDACTED] Little Neck, L.I.  
(fiancée of)  
5. [REDACTED] internec Camp Meade  
6. [REDACTED] detainee Ellis Island  
7. [REDACTED] detainee Ellis Island  
8. [REDACTED] internec  
9. [REDACTED] internec Camp Meade  
10. [REDACTED] (wife) Garden City, L.I. NY  
and [REDACTED] (girl) [REDACTED]



NY file 100-16314

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It was supported by donations and a 25¢ admission charge for those attending the meetings which were held twice a week. He stated that the Citizens Protective League went on trying to clear the name of HAUPTMANN but, receiving no cooperation from [REDACTED] MERTIG became discouraged and turned the League into, what he termed, a Public Forum for discussion of all questions. MERTIG was the Chairman and there were no other officers.

Speakers at the meeting included THOMAS RICE, a former United States Attorney, now deceased; [REDACTED] Trenton, New Jersey; [REDACTED] Investigator in the HAUPTMANN Case; [REDACTED] (formerly connected with Friends of New Germany); [REDACTED] and others. Meetings were held at 1253 Lexington Avenue, at the New York Turnhalle, on Monday nights. Admission fee was 25¢. Handbills were printed by the Hardt Press (New York file 100-19). The audience generally ran from 20 to 50 people. The last meeting was held in the latter part of March, 1942.

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MERTIG also admitted being Vice President of the German Literary Society until 1934 and Vice President of the German Society for Letters and Arts, 1934 to 1937. He stated that he has never been a member of the German-American Bund although he has attended meetings three or four times and also promoted concerts given by the singing societies of the SS BREMEN and SS EUROPA for the Bund. He has been to Camp Nordland for picnics. He stated that FRITZ KUHN wanted MERTIG to join the Bund when KUHN became National Leader but MERTIG refused to do so because he did not agree with KUHN's ideas on the handling of the Bund's finances. MERTIG stated that he insulted KUHN and that KUHN never again asked him to join; however, he admitted that he had attended the Madison Square Garden meeting at the George Washington Celebration but had gone merely out of curiosity. He also admitted having met KUHN's predecessor, KUNZE, once or twice but never became a close friend. He stated that he has never been a member of the Kyffhauser Bund although he knew many of the members. He said that in June of this year the Swiss Consulate asked MERTIG to get persons desiring to be repatriated to Germany and he was given a list of the names of these persons. This list was obtained through [REDACTED] who himself was repatriated on the SS DROTTHINGHOLM. He admitted being friendly with [REDACTED] and also the fact that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED]. He said that he [REDACTED] were at the Swiss Consulate, 404 Madison Avenue, New York City, one day and [REDACTED] introduced him to the Swiss Consulate General, and that he was then given a list, either by [REDACTED] or the Swiss Consul, of certain Germans who desired repatriation. He stated that [REDACTED] had prepared a list at the request of officials of the German Government and that he had called on several German families in the New York area with respect

NY file 100-16314

to repatriation. [REDACTED] according to MERTIG, was a member of the German-American Bund, the Reichsdeutsche Vereinigung (R.D.V.) and might have been a member of the NSDAP.

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In this connection, it should be noted that among [REDACTED] effects found by the New Haven Office was a membership card in the Nazi Party. He said that [REDACTED] had been requested by the German Government to return to Germany himself. He said that he has known [REDACTED] for many years, at least since 1931, and previously knew [REDACTED] father in Germany. He stated that [REDACTED] list contained names of about 280 persons, many of whom were in the same family as is apparent from the above lists.

MERTIG went on to state that about one-third of those people are party members. He estimated that roughly 200 have already departed for Germany, 40 have been left behind, and 40 have changed their minds and refused to go. He described his activities in the matter as limited to the circularizing of these persons advising them when the next boat would be leaving and what to take with them, et cetera.

[REDACTED] was originally to have prepared a list of about 75 families who were party members for repatriation purposes, but MERTIG said that [REDACTED] prior to his leaving, had asked most anyone he met whether they desired to be repatriated and, hence, the list contains more names than those of the party members.

At the time MERTIG was being interviewed he stated that he had thrown this list away; however, the list was found at the time of search indicating that MERTIG did not desire to fully cooperate. He said that he had frequently attended meetings of the Reichsdeutsche Vereinigung at the German Consulate with [REDACTED] before the war, and that he had gone with [REDACTED] to these meetings at the time when [REDACTED] was preparing his list since most of the members of the Reichsdeutsche Vereinigung were also members of the Nazi Party. He stated that he had not gone to any meetings since the outbreak of the war although he knew of one meeting which was a Christmas Celebration held at the York Club, 84th Street and York Avenue.

In conversations had with MERTIG while the search was being conducted at his home and on October 16, 1942, when he appeared at the New York Office, MERTIG attempted to clarify his position with respect to the repatriation scheme and other matters by stating that in writing letters to various Public Officials for the repatriates, and in acting as middle man between the Swiss Consulate and the repatriates, he did not feel that he had violated any Federal Law. He stated that what he

NY file 100-16314

has done for these German aliens he has done for humanitarian reasons only because these people were not able to express themselves in English and did not know the procedure to be followed in being repatriated. He stated that he had never gotten paid for his services either by the Swiss Consulate or the persons he had helped, although, subsequently, in the conversations, he stated that about 20% of the persons he has helped had "forced" sums ranging from \$3.00 to \$5.00 on him for his services. He said, however, that when the Swiss Consulate had offered to pay his passage, mailing charges, and expenses for paper and envelopes, he had refused because he felt that if he accepted any money at all he might be violating the Registration Act and that, if he refused such remuneration, he would then be staying within the Law.

From spot surveillances maintained on MERTIG, it has been learned that he has no regular business and has no apparent source of income, and it is very much doubted that he is telling the truth when he states that he has not been paid for his services in connection with the repatriation program.

As will be noted from previous reports, he ran into difficulty with the Swiss Consulate because the Swiss Consulate suspected him of grafting on the persons desiring repatriation.

67C At the time of search a paper, which purports to be a receipt, was obtained, which states "Received on account of balance of \$25.00, due \$10.00", dated June 16, 1942, and signed [REDACTED] and it will be later noted that [REDACTED] is one of the persons on whom a file of correspondence relating to repatriation was obtained.

MERTIG, on October 16, 1942, appeared at the office to inquire what the violation was which was charged in title 18, section 88, United States Code, which was the section under which the Grand Jury Subpoena Duces Tecum was served. The interview was with United States Attorney JOHN F. SONNETT, Southern District of New York, in the presence of the writer, and MERTIG was told that this section was one dealing with General Conspiracy against the Government but that it did not necessarily mean that he was charged with any crime.

On October 19, 1942 MERTIG wrote a letter to the Honorable JOHN C. KNOX, Judge of the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, a copy of which he sent to the reporting agent. This letter is set out as follows:

" October 19, 1942  
317 E. 54th St.

NY file 100-16314

"Hon. John C. Knox  
Judge of the District Court  
of the United States for the  
Southern District of New York  
New York, N.Y.

"Your Honor:-

" MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT THAT:

" It has been very gracious of Exe. Asst. John F. Sonnett to assure me last Friday at his office, when asking him for the reason of serving the Grand Jury Subpoena, dated Octo. 13th on me, that I did not stand charged with any crime (and I would have been the most surprised person, if I were charged with a violation of any law), nevertheless, the fact remains that my home was searched and correspondence, addresses, files etc. were sequestered from me, under promise of returning same to me as soon as possible.

" Although I was subpoenaed on October 14th to appear forthwith at room 514 in the U. S. Court House, New York City to testify and give evidence in regard to an alleged violation of 'Conspiracy to commit offense against the United States' and I presented myself there on the 14th and 16th inst., I did not get a hearing and up to this time I have no idea, what the rum-pus of five special agents of the F B I on my home in the morning of Oct. 14th and the following sequestering (as above stated) has been about.-

" I therefore appeal to your Honor to forthwith give me such opportunity of testifying and giving evidence in regard to an alleged violation of Title 18, Section 88, United States Code, and also order the return to me of the sequestered articles.-

" At present I would not be inconvenienced by attending before the GRAND INQUEST, but soon I expect to have business to attend to at fixed hours, and then such appearance and attendance might prove a considerable hardship for me.

" Thanking your Honor to look into this matter, I am

" very respectfully yours,

" /s/ KURT MERMIG "



NY file 100-16314

In connection with the above letter, it should be noted that on October 14, 1942, at the conclusion of the search, MERTIG refused to permit anything to be taken from his home without a receipt being given by the writer, which was done.

As a sample of the type of correspondence which MERTIG has written on behalf of German aliens who have been inducted, or are about to be inducted into the United States Army, the following letters are being set forth; although many of these letters appear over the signature of the individual involved, they were all typed by MERTIG on a typewriter which he owns and are believed to express MERTIG's thoughts and sentiments rather than those of the person he is writing them for:

THE FILE ON [REDACTED] b7C

" Astoria, L.I., N.Y., Oct. 10, 1942  
[REDACTED]

"Legation of Switzerland  
Department German Interests  
1439 Massachusetts Ave.  
Washington, D.C.

"Gentleman:-

" Herewith copies of my letters to:

Consulate General of Switzerland, New York City  
President Roosevelt  
War Department  
Commanding Officer, Camp Upton  
Local Board # 239  
Secretary of State Cordell Hull  
Attorney General Francis Biddle

"regarding my refusal to take the oath of induction into the U. S. Army and my refusal to wear the uniform of the armed forces of this country, even if taken to Camp Upton by force.

" Will you kindly see that my case will be relayed to the proper German authorities and oblige\_

" very sincerely yours,

" [REDACTED] "

b7C

NY file 100-16314

" Astoria, L.I., N.Y., Oct. 10, 1942  
[REDACTED] b7c

"Consulate General of Switzerland  
444 Madison Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

"Gentlemen:-

Att. German Interests

" I beg to confirm our yesterday's conversation and attach hereto  
copies of my letters to:

President Roosevelt  
War Department  
Commanding Officer at Camp Upton  
Local Board # 239  
Secretary of State  
The Attorney General

regarding my protest against being inducted into the U. S. Army against  
my will.

" Please report my case to the German authorities and as the pro-  
tecting power kindly assist me further in this matter.

" Very sincerely yours,

" [REDACTED] "

b7c

" Astoria, L.I., N.Y., Oct. 10, 1942  
[REDACTED]

"Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
President of the U. S.  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. President:-

" Local Board #239 of 37-19 Broadway, Long Island City, N.Y.  
classified me under 1 A in spite of my repeated protests that I claimed  
exemption as a German national. I was sent to Governors Island on  
October 6th and in spite of my repeated protests and my refusal to take

NY file 100-16314

"the oath of induction into the U. S. Army, I was told to report on October 20th at Camp Upton for military service.

" I positively shall refuse to do this, as I never can be anything else but a German national and cannot conscientiously take an oath to serve the United States as a soldier.

" I consider it against the Constitution of the United States, against common humanity, against ordinary military prudence, and against diplomatic wisdom to force me into such false position.

" Such arbitrary action is unknown in any other civilized country and same might serve as a precedent by which German military authorities could force Americans, who still find themselves in axis-dominated Europe, to serve in the German Army against their will.

" If common sense does not prevail in the operation of the Selective Service Act, you have the authority to change the rules, and you alone, as the Commander in Chief, as you recently choose to call yourself, are responsible, if this 'impressment' in the U. S. Army of enemy aliens against their will is not stopped - stopped once for all.

" What benefit can the United States derive from forcing enemy aliens to wear the uniform of this country?-

" Please order this wrongful and foolish thing stopped and release me from military duty in accordance with the principles of human thought and human actions.

" Very respectfully yours,

" [REDACTED] "

b7c

" Astoria, L.I., N.Y., Oct. 10, 1942  
[REDACTED]

"WAR DEPARTMENT  
Washington, D. C.

"Gentlemen:-

Att. Major General J. A. Ulio  
The Adjutant General

" I wrote to-day to President Roosevelt as per attached copy

NY file 100-16314

"asking him to order my release from obligation to report on October 20th at Camp Upton for military service.

" And I appeal to you likewise to release me, in case the President has no time to occupy himself with my case.

" This impressment into the U. S. Army of a German enemy alien against his will is against International Law and against common sense, and can serve no good purpose.

" My views and convictions that I want to return to my native country as soon as I possibly can, and that I only owe allegiance to Germany, cannot be changed in the least.

" I therefore appeal to you to instruct the Commanding Officer at Camp Upton to release me from military duty, as I simply wont go there, and if taken there by force, shall refuse to wear the uniform of the U. S. Army.-

" Thanking you in advance for looking into this matter, I beg to remain

" very respectfully yours,

b7c " [REDACTED] "

" Astoria, L.I., N.Y., October 10, 1942  
[REDACTED]

"To the  
Commanding Officer  
Camp Upton, L.I., N.Y.

"Dear Sir:-

" I wrote to-day to:

President Roosevelt  
The Adjutant General of the War Department  
Local Board # 239 of 37-19 Broadway, L.I.C.

asking to be released from my obligation, as a German national, to report at Camp Upton on October 20th for induction into the U. S. Army.



NY file 100-16314

" I have protested again and again to the Local Board that as a German enemy alien I won't serve in the American Army, and I have refused the oath of induction at Governor's Island.

" I want to return to my native country as soon as I can, and I could not do so, if I serve in the forces of the United States, when this country is at war with Germany.

" I wish to serve notice on you that I shall refuse to report at Camp Upton on October 20th, and if taken there by the M. P., I shall refuse to wear the uniform of the U. S. Army.

" Very respectfully yours,

" [REDACTED] "

b7c

" Astoria, L.I., N.Y., Oct. 10, 42  
[REDACTED]

"Local Board # 239  
37-19 Broadway  
Long Island City, N.Y.

"Gentlemen:-

" I wrote to:  
President Roosevelt  
The War Department  
The Commanding Officer, Camp Upton

protesting against my induction into the U. S. Army against my will and requesting my release from obligation to report at Camp Upton on October 20th, as even if taken there by force I shall refuse to take the oath of induction, as I already have refused same at Governor's Island on the 6th inst.

" I am a German enemy alien and although I have always been a law-abiding resident of this country, I rather prefer to be interned than serve in the forces of the United States, when this country is at war with Germany, as by doing so I could not return to my native country, and this I want to do as soon as an opportunity presents itself, to re-join my family there.

" Very respectfully yours,

" b7c [REDACTED] "

NY file 100-16314

"His Excellency  
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
President of the United States  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

"Mr. President:-

A glaring mistake in the administration  
of the Selective Service System.

" Local draft boards, to a large and dangerous extent, desirous  
of maintaining their quotas and escaping censure, are using methods of  
indiscriminate 'impressment', regardless of qualifications or justice.-

" A classic example is:  
'Local Board # 221, Kings County, 315 Wyckoff Ave., Brooklyn,  
NY insisted on placing

b7c

Brooklyn, N.Y.

a German national into Class 1A over his protests, and although  
he had refused on July 30th the oath of induction into the U. S.  
Army at Governor's Island, instructed him to proceed on Aug. 14th  
to Camp Upton under penalty of being arrested and transported  
there by military police, if he would not show up there as told.

1  
b7c  
1  
And this in spite of [redacted] informing the Local Board verbally  
and by letters on Aug. 4, 7, and 10th of [redacted] letters of  
appeal to your high office, to Secretary of War Stinson, to  
Attorney General Biddle, to Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles,  
U. S. Attorney Harold M. Kennedy, Brooklyn and to the Commanding  
Officer at Camp Upton, basine his protests on the convention of  
Geneva and International Law, with the only result that [redacted]  
was transported from Camp Upton N.Y. to Camp Croft, S.C., from  
where the nearest relatives were informed by the War Department  
by postal, dated Aug. 22, but mailed only on August 26th, that  
[redacted] address was:

[redacted] (Army Serial #)  
[redacted] Camp Croft, S. C.

" 'This is only one of the numerous cases of such high handed methods  
of Local Draft Boards.'

" How can the U.S. Army be safeguarded against possible Fifth  
Column activities in such manner? How can Unity be produced at home?  
And the war CAN be lost at home. That is how the Germans lost in 1918:

NY file 100-16314

" You have the authority to prescribe changes in rules, and the responsibility is yours! - Respectfully submitted,

" CITIZENS PROTECTIVE LEAGUE

chairman "

In connection with the case of HELMUT LEINER, the following letter is set forth, which letter was found in MERTIG's file of correspondence in the case; it is set forth for the purpose of showing the type of action he has taken as well as for what light it might throw on his point of view and feelings about this country; also contained in this file are copies of letters which were previously set out in the reference report:

" CITIZENS' PROTECTIVE LEAGUE  
(Equal rights for all)

"Meetings every Monday, 8:30 P.M. at New York  
Turnhall, cor. 85th Street & Lexington Ave.,  
N.Y.C.

"KURT MERTIG, Chairman

NEW YORK, N.Y. August 17, 1942.  
317 E. 54th St.

"To His Excellency  
Franklin D. Roosevelt  
President of the U. S.  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. President:-

" I am one of those Americans of German birth who many years ago (in 1911, to be exact) decided to become a citizen of the United States, because I was an honest and sincere believer in the principles laid down in the glorious Declaration of Independence -- a document which has always stood forth in my estimation as a character of liberty for all mankind.

" Although during the next few years business called me away to China and South America, by reason of my being reputed to be a salesman of unusual ability, yet, wherever I went (and I spent much time in Chile, Argentina and Brazil, whose conditions I thoroughly understand) I carried the flag for this land, which I had decided to be the true birthplace of freedom.

NY file 100-16314

" During the first world war I kept strictly aloof from all circles that, under the natural temptation exerted by their German blood, were drawn into partisan efforts that in some cases became undistinguishable from what is now called now called "fifth column" strategy.

" In like manner, when the present world war began a decade ago to show its first signs of coming to birth, I took counsel from my knowledge of outside world affairs to take time by the forelock and make preparations against rash movements of which I foresaw that, after getting their start under the impulse of atavistic German sentiment, they might by degrees be drawn into activities adverse to the welfare of this republic and to the maintenance of its basic principles of justice and freedom for all, under the law.

" To this end I united with some American friends to establish in Yorkville a typical American Free Forum which, under the name of the CITIZEN'S PROTECTIVE LEAGUE, carried on for many years without the issuing of partisan platforms or manifestos, but simply as a meeting place of all-entrancing debate, open to all Americans regardless of creed, party or race.

" These debates were carried on for year after year under my umpireship, but without any attempt on my part to influence their objectives --- much less to restrict free speech, within the limitations provided by American law for the safety of the republic. Often the debates were opened by a set lecture which in the majority of cases was delivered by some man or woman of Anglo-Saxon origin and mature intelligence. As a matter of fact, when affairs of nationwide, or world-wide interest would come up for debate, the most jingoist speeches were made by orators of Anglo-Saxon birth; and the wisdom of this non-partisan policy was shown by the further fact that our meetings became a "Cave of Adullam" for persons of German ancestry to whom the proceedings of such partisan movements as the 'Bund' had become distasteful.

" As a not so pleasant consequence of our popularity, it happened that when, after the outbreak of the present war, and especially after the breaking out of war between the U S and Germany, the 'Bund' and similar movements 'folded their tents and silently stole away', our non-partisan CITIZEN'S PROTECTIVE LEAGUE had to fight against being swamped by such an influx of bitterly partisan orators --- left high and dry by the disappearance of their customary opportunities for oratorical display - that, in the interest of our reputation as good Americans, we disbanded, in April last, for the duration!-



NY file 100-16314

" By that time, however, the very opposition that had been set in motion against us by organizations built up on appeal to prejudice and race feeling, had advertised us to such an extent that presently I was called in to help the New York Swiss Consulate and the Washington Swiss Legation in their endeavors to arrange the exchange of German nationals in this country with American nationals in Germany and Italy; and this work led in turn to the extending of my acquaintance among all classes of Germans, so that little by little my intervention began to be sought after by Germans who by reason of accidental business association or personal acquaintance with persons who had become the object of governmental investigation, had become entangled in the outskirts of deportation or internment proceedings.

" In other words, I was by way of becoming a sort of Grand-Daddy to that percentage of innocent persons who in such cases are apt to become involuntarily mixed up with the few guilty, and thus to become acquainted with the ancient aphorism that records the sufferings of 'good doer Tray'!

" This, of course, has in a lesser degree placed me in that tight place of moral constraint, between two fires (that Your Excellency thoroughly understands as President of all of us), to hold the balance even among contending and varying elements.

" It is, in fact, because I myself appreciate to some little extent the nature of some of the difficulties encountered by you, that I now hesitate greatly in calling your attention to a case which has been brought to me by good Americans, and which, after careful investigation by me, seems to me to call for special protection against what appear to be budding tendencies on the part of over-zealous minor officials to dip the scales of justice in favor of their own prestige as investigators or prosecutors, forgetting that there can be no greater public calamity than the inflicting of punishment for guilt upon innocent persons --- inasmuch that my apology to you for inflicting this matter upon your attention consists in the fact that the protecting of the defendant in question from biased methods of procedure will tend to greatly confirm and fortify the efforts that have long been made by myself and by other loyal citizens of German ancestry to guard well the walls of this republic from being undermined by the efforts of those who seize upon every miscarriage of the law as a means to spread dissension and disaffection among our own citizens for the sake of giving aid and comfort to the enemies of the State.

bc " The case to which I refer is that of HELMUT LEINER, [REDACTED] Astoria, L.I., N.Y., who is about to be put on trial for

NY file 100-16314

"alleged connection with the man Kerling, who was recently executed as a saboteur -- the charge against Leiner being based on the fact that Leiner had been acquainted with Kerling [REDACTED] some two or three years ago (although for more than two years they have never set eyes on each other and although Leiner himself is [REDACTED])

[REDACTED] sabotaging is de facto an absurdity.

" The only circumstance to which the Leiners can attribute their being drawn into the case is that [REDACTED] a man who since that visit has been reported to them to be in connection with the saboteurs, called at the Leiner Home on a visit [REDACTED], concerning which he claimed he had been informed not long previously, and for which he wanted to [REDACTED] because of his realization of the difficulties [REDACTED] Germans are compelled to struggle for a livelihood.

" This chance visit ended in a casual suggestion by the visitor that Holmut Leiner [REDACTED] since that time they never met again - [REDACTED]

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" This casual episode is all there is to the case as an even remotely plausible ground for belief that Leiner was implicated in the Kerling affair; although it is now alleged that, during the visit, the caller [REDACTED]

" Whether the making of such request be true or not, the incident does not modify the fact that Leiner knew nothing whatever, and had no suspicion of, the chance callers being connected with any sabotaging activities.

" As the case now stands [REDACTED]

" [REDACTED] my present appeal to you derives from the fact that -- owing probably to the chronic tendency of many inexperienced officials to go out of their way to "make a case stick",

NY file 100-16314

"when once it has been started, someone in the office of the Attorney General Francis Biddle has indiscreetly given to the press a photograph, which is evidently intended to clinch the accusation or insinuation that Leiner was connected with the German-American Bund -- the fact being that this Photo, which purports to depict a couple of uniformed men hanging a picture of Adolf Hitler in the former office of the Bund in Yorkville, not only presents the men as wearing German uniforms which were not worn in this country -- the photo, as a matter of fact, having been made in Germany -- but also does not identify either of the men as Leiner, the attempt at such identification being such an arrant failure that it is impossible by any course of reasoning known to American jurisprudence to even remotely prove that either of the men was Leiner.

" Now my point is that this photograph, which was not even made in this country, which depicts uniforms not worn in this country, and depicts persons utterly unidentifiable as Leiner, has by the Attorney General's office been grossly misused for the deliberate prejudicing and setting aside of Leiner's constitutional right to be treated as innocent until he has been proven guilty.

" For, since every member of the jury which will eventually hear the Leiner case is at this time at large -- going about his or her lawful vocation, and reading the newspapers -- it is manifestly unjust to infect the minds of such persons beforehand with a false impression that the defendant is guilty.

" And the fact that such an unconstitutional interference with the eventual doing of justice has thus publicly and undeniably been attempted and perpetrated by the office of the Attorney General, has created in the mind of myself and other loyal Americans of German ancestry a strong conviction, not only that the adopting of such an improper method is proof of consciousness on the part of the Attorney General's office that they have no lawful proof of Leiner's guilt, but also that they are willing to descend to the use of any and all unconscionable and conscienceless means to convict Leiner and slaughter him to make a holiday for some overzealous and unfairminded underling of Mr. Biddle's office.

" In other words, the very fact of this preliminary indiscreet and indecent violation of Leiner's constitutional rights causes us to gravely fear that the remaining stages of the Leiner trial will be similarly unfair, unless Your Excellency -- who alone has real power to bring about fair play in this matter -- will personally see to it that the thoughtless and logically uninformed persons who have thus recklessly imperilled a human life by their thus imposing upon the credulity of our easy-minded Attorney General, shall be effectively restrained from further interference in this

NY file 100-16314

"case with the source of constitutional American justice.

" We feel, Mr. President, that without our further intruding upon your time and attention, you will give this matter the consideration which it merits and will direct your instructions to the place where they will be most effective for fair play. Fair Play is all that we ask; and we ask it not only as a matter of justice to Leiner and his parents (the latter have already given to our country one son, who was killed while on duty as a soldier in the Hawaiian Islands,

b7c [REDACTED], but also as a just and noble action, calculated to immeasurably strengthen the hands of myself and all other loyal Americans of German ancestry in this our honest endeavor to do our full share in bringing it about that at the conclusion of this war the immortal words of Lincoln shall still ring true, and that our type of human government shall not have perished from the earth.

" With profound sympathy for your steadfast endurance of unprecedented presidential burdens, I remain

" sincerely and respectfully,

" Chairman  
CITIZEN'S PROTECTIVE LEAGUE "

With respect to the repatriation part of MERTIG's activities, 47 files of correspondence were found at the time of the search at MERTIG's home. As with the material described above, this correspondence consisted of copies of letters which MERTIG has written in behalf of the repatriates to various Government Officials and to the Swiss Legation, although, in most instances, the name of the sender of the letter is apparently the individual concerned rather than MERTIG. The material obtained is too voluminous to set forth; however, selected material is set forth below; the names and addresses of these 47 persons are being set forth for the Bureau's information and it is to be noted that in many instances these names correspond with the names of persons contained in [REDACTED] list:

b7c [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Brooklyn, N. Y.;  
[REDACTED] Newark, N. J.;  
[REDACTED] West New York, N. J.;  
[REDACTED] Bronx, N. Y.;  
[REDACTED] Jersey City, N. J.;  
[REDACTED] East Orange,  
[REDACTED] N. J.;



ADDRESS REPLY TO  
"UNITED STATES ATTORNEY"  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

EMF:DHM

M71/Misc. 994M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

November 9, 1942

The Special Agent in Charge,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
United States Court House,  
Foley Square,  
New York, N. Y.

Re: Kurt Mertig, 317 E. 54th St., N.Y.C.  
Born in Germany, Sept. 5, 1886; entered  
U. S. December 17, 1916; naturalized Janu-  
ary 30, 1931 in U. S. Dist. Court for  
Southern District of New York.

Sir:

An investigation is being conducted to  
determine whether the naturalization of the  
above named person should be cancelled.

In order to denaturalize, it is necessary  
to establish (1) that the subject was not  
attached to the principles of the Constitution  
of the United States, or (2) that the subject  
did not forswear allegiance to a foreign state  
or potentate.

Either of these facts will be established  
by testimony proving disloyal acts or utterances  
of the subject. Will you please institute an  
investigation to determine these facts.

Respectfully,

*Matthias F. Correa*

MATTHIAS F. CORREA,  
United States Attorney

NOV 10 1942  
N. Y. C.



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[REDACTED]

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-4-00 BY 60267 NLS/aoe/ale

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This case originated at: NEW YORK, NEW YORK

NY File No. 100-16314 MEM

Report made at: NEW YORK CITY	Date when made: 10/2/43	Period for which made: 7/1,2;8/29/43	Report made by: [REDACTED] b7c
Title: KURT MERTIG			Character of Case: SECURITY MATTER - G DENATURALIZATION PROCEEDINGS-G REGISTRATION ACT SEDITION

Synopsis of Facts:

USA advised that for the present his office would not file a complaint for the denaturalization of the Subject. Subject refuses to leave the Eastern military district in defiance of exclusion order of the Army issued June 7, 1943. Subject was instructed in an order which was served upon him on June 17, 1943, to report to the Director of the Internal Security Division in New York City on June 21, 1943. Subject refused to comply with this order. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that a possible violation of the Registration Act might be developed. Subject reported, by Confidential Informant, to be still assisting Germans in New York City.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-4-00 BY 60267/10500/1000

- P -

REFERENCE:

Bureau file #65-9879  
Bureau letter dated July 24, 1943 to New York City.  
Bureau letter dated July 6, 1943 to New York City.  
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated February 26, 1943

DETAILS:

On April 30, 1943, Mr. John F. Sonnett, Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, advised that for the present time no complaint would be filed toward the denaturalization of this Subject, inasmuch as there was then pending an action which would be taken by the United States Army on an exclusion order as a result of a hearing which was granted the Subject by the Individual Exclusion Hearing Board, Second Service Command.

Approved and Forwarded: [Signature] SAC	Do not write in these spaces 100-16314-136	
Copies of this report: 5 - Bureau 1 - ONI 1 - G-2 2 - USA, SDNY 2 - Buffalo ③ - New York	[Signature] H	

Referred

[REDACTED]

It was reported to the New York office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, on June 29, 1943, by the Army Authorities that the Subject had failed to report to them on June 21, 1943 as ordered, and that numerous letters had been written by KERTIG to various military officials indicating that he would not comply with the exclusion order inasmuch as the order was unconstitutional and he was a loyal citizen.

On July 1, 1943 Special Agent [REDACTED] and the writer observed KURT KERTIG on East 54th Street. His presence in New York City is a violation of the exclusion order, and under Public Law #503 is a criminal violation.

On July 3, 1943 Special Agent E. J. McCabe telephonically communicated with Assistant United States Attorney, John F. Sonnett, for the Southern District of New York, and requested his opinion as to prosecutive action against the Subject for his violation of the exclusion order. Mr. Sonnett advised that nothing would be done until the Military authorities requested the prosecution of KERTIG for violation of their exclusion order. The Army has not yet requested that prosecution be undertaken against KURT KERTIG for a violation of the exclusion order.

On July 26, 1943 [REDACTED] contacted the New York office in order to discuss the present status of this case. [REDACTED] was of the opinion that it may be possible to obtain prosecution against the Subject for violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938. It was his opinion that the term "Foreign Principal" would include the Swiss Consulate with which KERTIG has had considerable dealings. He also felt that the term "Foreign Principals" would include a foreign political party and that KERTIG, by his negotiations for repatriation of Germans who were members of the Nazi Party, had violated the act.

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There was a remote possibility, in [redacted] opinion, that a violation of the Sedition Act might be proffered inasmuch as LERTIG tried to have German aliens released from the United States Army. LERTIG wrote numerous letters on behalf of certain German aliens who were inducted into the United States Army seeking their release. In this connection [redacted] further stated that LERTIG might have been merely acting in the capacity of a friend, and not with the intention of undermining the morale of the Armed Forces. Subsequently [redacted] telephonically advised Special Agent [redacted] that he had been in contact with [redacted] in New York City, and they informed him that [redacted] at Washington, D.C., requesting that [redacted] to prepare a list of Germans for repatriation. These instructions had been forwarded to [redacted] at New York City. [redacted] felt, however, that undoubtedly [redacted] had not been through [redacted] and, therefore, would not be available for evidence.

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It was reported on [redacted] by Confidential Informant [redacted] whose information is considered reliable, but is unavailable as a witness, that [redacted] KURT LERTIG and that [redacted] was there.

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LERTIG told the informant that he had been to Washington, D.C. to see the Attorney General because he had been questioned by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and that his premises had been searched. He also told the informant that he intended to testify at the trial of HELMUTH LEINER, if the defense attorney so desired. LERTIG stated that he was sorry that he did not go back to Germany and give up his citizenship, and that he had filed a petition in the Judiciary Committee, urging Congress to prohibit the Army from moving citizens out of various military areas.

Again on [redacted] Confidential Informant reported that [redacted] the Subject [redacted] New York, in his effort to prevent his exclusion. LERTIG informed that [redacted] Citizens Protective League, and that he had collaborated with [redacted] who were in the past National Socialists; however, [redacted] LERTIG that he would have nothing to do with him as he did not wish to impair his patriotism.

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On June 11, 1943 Confidential Informant [redacted] reported that LERTIG [redacted] his place of residence at 317 East 54 Street, New York City.

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[redacted] also informed that LERTIG [redacted]



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[REDACTED]  
On [REDACTED] Confidential Informant [REDACTED] again reported that MERTIG stated that he will not grant interviews to Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation because he does not wish to give evidence to be used against other Germans. At that time MERTIG claimed he represents two German newspapers, the "Sonntag Post", and the "Herald Post", [REDACTED]

Confidential Informant [REDACTED] observed [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Confidential Informant [REDACTED] reported that MERTIG had [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] according to MERTIG, [REDACTED]

MERTIG told the Informant that he seeks to test the constitutionality of the exclusion act if he is seized. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] gave MERTIG the HITLER salute. [REDACTED]

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On [REDACTED] the Informant reported that MERTIG was boasting that he had beat the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and it was the only case where a German had had his rights respected, and he was confident that he will never be removed from this military area. The Informant reported further that [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] At present MERTIG is reported to [REDACTED]

Special Agent [REDACTED] reported on March 10, 1943 that he had interviewed [REDACTED], and that upon search of her premises a letter dated April 30, 1943 from KURT MERTIG was found. The letter from MERTIG contained statements that he had brought complaints to the President, Attorney General, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the unduly prolonging detention at Ellis Island of Germans, and that he was the only one who had the courage to protest repeatedly against this injustice, and because of this "Life" magazine and the newspaper "PM" had started a smear campaign against him and the Citizens Protective League. The last paragraph of the letter contains an appeal for financial assistance. [REDACTED] was investigated by the New York Field Division and she is employed by [REDACTED] New York City, who is also under investigation.

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- P E N D I N G -

NY 100-16314

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

Confidential Informant [REDACTED] mentioned in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated October 2, 1943 at New York City is [REDACTED]

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
(FBI)**

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS RELEASE

**SUBJECT: KURT MERTIG and GERMAN-AMERICAN  
REPUBLICAN LEAGUE**

**FOIPA NUMBER: 917,472 and 917,097**

**FILE NUMBER: 100-16314 SECTION 3 SERIAL 143**